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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



No Poker

Residents urge Zoning to remove poker establishments in Kagman and Capital Hill.

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Mine Accident

Crews begin drilling into a southern West Virginia mine where 25 died.

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Second Wind

For 73-year-old Rosetta Handy and the second-graders, it's winners all around.

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14 students advance to int'l thespian competition. PAGE 3
USDOE execs warn of possible recall of SFSF money. **PAGE 7**

'Crimes costing NMI millions'

» **Of 1,305 cases from Jan. 1 to March, nearly 400 are burglaries and thefts**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Between Jan. 1 and March 31 this year, police recorded 1,305 traffic and criminal cases, almost 400 of them burglaries, thefts, or both.

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Sharp rise in seized illegal drugs, stolen property

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program has recently seen a sharp increase in the recovery of illegal drugs and stolen property in the Commonwealth.

Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong said yesterday that, based on their 2010 first quarter statistics, recent tips led to the recov-

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asking the court to declare as "unconstitutional" all statutes purporting to establish or fund nonvoting delegates from the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

It also asks the court to declare uncon-

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'CNRA's provision on CNMI and Guam delegates unconstitutional'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Taiwan-based Robin Hood International Human Rights Legal Defense Fund made a separate filing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit,

Bishop Camacho retires after 26 years

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Thomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, paving the way for Camacho's retirement after 26 years of service to

the diocese and its faithful.

In the meantime, an administrator will take care of running the diocese while the Vatican decides on who will be the next bishop.

Camacho received word of the pope's decision on Tuesday night, April 6, at

See BISHOP on Page 4



Newly appointed Apostolic Administrator, the Very Rev. Manuel Reyes Corcuera, left, poses with recently retired Bishop Thomas A. Camacho.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

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Local



Kagman and Capital Hill residents pose with Zoning Board officials after a village meeting at the Kagman Community Center Tuesday night to seek public feedback about the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Zoning urged to remove poker from Kagman

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Kagman and Capital Hill residents who attended a Zoning board village meeting Tuesday night at the Kagman Community Center were unanimous in urging the Zoning Office to remove all poker establishments from their residential and commercial areas.

Residents told Zoning officials that the poker arcades—originally intended for the use of tourists—no longer serve this purpose. Moreover, residents claimed that crime, drug use, and drug trafficking are highly concentrated near these areas. Area residents also claim that some children are being neglected at home as a result of parents with gambling problems.

Since the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law is under review for revision, Kagman and Capital Hill residents suggested for zoning to consider using the unused La Fiesta Mall in San Roque as a centralized gambling area for the whole island. Those present also voiced plans of petitioning the Legislature

to abolish the grandfathering rights of all poker establishments in all neighborhoods.

No one spoke up in defense of poker arcades at the meeting. There was also no official representative of arcade owners present.

The Zoning Board held the village meeting to seek feedback from the public about how the current zoning laws are working. The Zoning Board is currently in the process of reviewing and revising the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law.

During most of the meeting, Zoning board officials explained rules pertaining to nonconforming businesses. The main issue of concern for residents present at the meeting were the poker parlors.

At present, the zoning law states that any business established before 2008 reserves the right to be grandfathered into the system as long as the owner is registered with zoning as a nonconforming business. These nonconforming businesses are not allowed to expand or make any major changes, and if they close for more than six months

they will not be allowed to re-open. Any new businesses seeking zoning permits will have to conform to the new Saipan zoning laws.

Under the new zoning laws, poker parlors and auto body shops will no longer be allowed in residential areas.

The Kagman and Capital Hill areas are prominently made up of village residential zones, a small village commercial zone, and the largest agricultural zoning area on island.

Currently, the Zoning Board has designed the grandfathering rights of nonconforming businesses to naturally downsize through attrition. The board supports the villagers' ideas, but said that the grandfathered poker rooms still have the right to remain in business.

Other issues raised during the meeting pertained to re-zoning suggestions. Some residents of Kagman asked zoning to enlarge the Kagman village commercial zoning area and others asked permission to allow a new auto body shop in an uninhabited area within the Kagman village residential zone.

DEQ gearing up for 2010 Environmental Expo

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Department of Environmental Quality will be hosting a two-day Environmental Expo, educational event primarily for students and educators, on April 21 and 22, from 8am to 12pm at

the American Memorial Park.

The event will feature 30 exhibit booths focusing on issues that affect the beauty and environmental health of the island.

During the same week DEQ will be featuring three environmental films at the AMP theater: *The Lorax*, *Home*, and *The End*

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14 students advance to int'l thespian competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fourteen students from public secondary schools won gold medals in the 2010 thespian regional competition held at Marianas High School last month and will represent the Commonwealth in the International Thespian Festival this June.

The group, composed of eight senior and six junior high students, will compete against other teams from U.S. states and territories in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 18 through June 26.

Organized by the National Forensic League, 60 entries started out in the rigorous rounds that saw participation dwindle to 35 in the finals.

The eight gold medalists in the high school division included Ann Mariel Flores of Saipan Southern High School, who emerged champion in the monologue category.

The tandem of Dowen Jocson and Adeleyah Mojica of Marianas High School also emerged overall winner in the duet acting.

Arson ruled out in Chinatown blaze

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Arson investigators have determined that the fire that engulfed a house in Chinatown on Monday was not intentionally set off.

"Arson has been ruled out," according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David yesterday.

David said fire investigators found that the cause of the blaze was faulty electrical wiring in one of the bedrooms.

On Monday at 2pm, DPS received a call about a structure fire behind the Quick Print building on Director Ct. Road. Fire fighters and paramedics

while Kagman High School's Miki Dela Cruz ruled the solo musical event.

MHS' Wilden Mangahis also brought pride and honor to his school after bagging a gold medal in the mime competition.

In the set design category, Rosette Buno won the gold medal for MHS along with schoolmate Rochelle Dimapolis, who emerged overall winner in the costume category.

Senior student Kevin Jardino, also from MHS, completed the school's eight-member slate.

Joining the national team in the junior division were Maria Castro of San Antonio Elementary School, who won the gold medal in monologue; SAES' Anabel Manzo and Amy Liu for duet acting; and Hopwood Junior High's Jenella Nelmida, who won the gold for solo musical.

San Antonio's Christine Aninzo and Jackilyn Rafols completed the 14-member team after bagging the gold in the mime competition.

According to Harold Easton, NFL board chair, 2010 marked the ninth year of the CNMI's participation in the international competition for thespians.

The CNMI has been recognized as among the best teams in the nation in past years. In 2008, CNMI delegates finished in the Top 8 in the nation for costume design. A year prior, a CNMI team member finished in the Top 4 in duet acting.

It was also the same year when local delegates were adjudged Top 2 in costume design and Top 10 in solo musical events.

A thespian scholarship for set design was also awarded to a CNMI student in 2007, along with the inclusion of a team member in the official videographers for the thespian

national festival.

"We've done extremely well in the last years and we're confident with our team delegate this year. Seeing the commitment and dedication of our kids who were chosen among the best on our islands, I have no doubt of the honors they would bring to us," Easton told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides the competition proper, the delegates will also have the chance to take college and scholarship auditions and attend festival workshops

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throughout the festival.

They will also be accorded the opportunity to participate in national individual event showcases and perform one act for chapter select showcase, where only 16 school teams are invited.

Contenders in the thespian regional are the top performers in

their contest categories during the first four preliminary rounds throughout the year, determined through cumulative points gained in every contest round.

Thespian events help students expand their artistic capabilities and imagination through stage plays and performances that build character and confidence.

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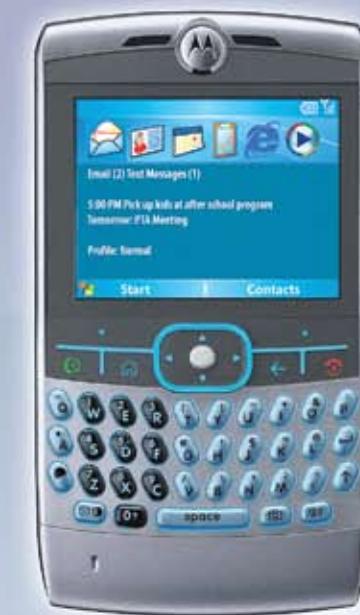
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BISHOP*From Page 1*

9pm (noon local time in Rome).

Anticipating the event, the bishop scheduled on Monday morning a meeting with his clergy and staff for 8am yesterday morning, where he made his surprise announcement.

CNRA*From Page 1*

situtional any expenditure of funds by the U.S. Congress for nonvoting delegates from the U.S. territories.

Dr. Paul Mas Risenhoover of Robin Hood International Human Rights Legal Defense Fund, in his filing, said Section 711 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act violates Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

The CNRA or Public Law 110-229, signed in 2008, brought the CNMI immigration under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009.

Section 711 of the CNRA or the federalization law establishes a CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Specifically, we pray the court declare the CNRA to be facially unconstitutional as it purports the CNMI shall be represented in the U.S. Congress,"

During the small private meeting, the newly retired bishop expressed his personal thanks to everyone with whom he worked everyday.

To ensure the continuity of governance of the vacated Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in a simultaneous decree named and appointed the Very Reverend Manuel Reyes Corcueria

said the Legal Defense Fund.

Article I of the U.S. Constitution declares that "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." Article V describes the process whereby the Constitution may be altered.

The Legal Defense Fund, in its filing, said the CNRA Section 711 has not been "ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress," and thus does not constitute, nor could constitute, an amendment to Article I of the Constitution.

"The CNMI has no constitutional right to representation within the Congress. The Congress is the Congress of the several states united to form a political union called the United States; it is not the Congress of American Ter-

(former Vicar General) the Apostolic Administrator of the diocese.

With his retirement, Comacho is no longer the bishop of the diocese and all administrative powers will reside with Corcueria. The Cathedra (bishop's chair) will remain vacant until the Vatican appoints the next bishop.

"My primary responsibility is to maintain and continue the life of the

Catholic faith in the community and I assure that the clergy will continue working together," said Corcueria.

Comacho said he is grateful to the Holy Father for accepting his resignation and is looking forward to focusing his attention on regaining his health during his upcoming operation and medical tests.

The former bishop also plans to

continue working on his project of translating the Old Testament into his native Chamorro language as he has already completed a New Testament version.

Comacho asks for everyone's continued prayers and urged all the faithful to give Corcueria the same support and cooperation that they gave him as bishop for more than a quarter of a century.

SHARP*From Page 1*

ery of \$14,000 worth of stolen property such as a car, laptops, and digital cameras.

Tarkong said other recent tips resulted in the arrest of suspects and the seizure of over \$20,000 worth of stolen property and \$2,500 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

The recovered stolen items were au-

dio and visual electronics, concert-type stereo speakers, and expensive fishing tackle (rods and reels).

Tarkong said that, in December 2009, with the help of Crime Stoppers' information, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force recovered over 70 grams of "ice" with a street value of \$35,000 during a raid.

While executing the search warrant, Tarkong said, investigators also seized over \$5,000 worth of stolen items such as power tools, chain saws, and a por-

table generator.

"DPS would like to thank Crime Stoppers tipsters for their tips, which help put a stop to crime here in the CNMI. We would also like to recognize the hard work of the police officers involved in investigating these crimes and bringing the criminals to justice," he said.

Since its inception in 1989, the NMI Crime Stoppers Program had provided tips to law enforcement agencies, reportedly allowing law enforcers to ar-

rest over 220 criminals.

With those tips, law enforcers recovered over \$2.8 million worth of stolen property and seized over \$2.5 million worth of illegal drugs.

Over the years, the Crime Stoppers program has paid out \$20,000 in rewards.

The program's board of directors, Tarkong said, is composed of volunteers, whose mandate is to maintain the anonymous tips line and work with the community, media, and law enforce-

ment in getting criminals off the streets of the CNMI.

"Our organization relies on donations from the community to keep the program operational. We want to sincerely thank each of sponsors for committing to make a great difference in our community. In addition, we wish to thank our partners in law enforcement, the media, and anonymous callers that provide the tips we need to solve crimes in the CNMI," Tarkong said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CRIMES*From Page 1*

These crimes are costing businesses and consumers millions of dollars if ripple effects such as higher insurance rates, lost revenue, and new security measures are added to the already high cost of doing business in the CNMI.

Majority of the 396 reported cases of thefts and burglaries and thefts in the CNMI were attributed to narcotics or illegal drug use, most especially "ice," Sgt. Paul Ogumoro, chief of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau, said yesterday in a presentation at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting.

Thefts and burglaries, combined with other criminal cases such as bad checks issuance and forgeries for a total of 412, meant an average of five thefts and burglaries every single day between January and March.

The "hottest" item when it comes to thefts and burglaries are laptop computers, which are sold to the community for a few hundred dollars, just enough to buy "ice," for example, which now has a street value of \$450 to over \$500 a gram, said DPS spokesman Eric David.

"The costs to businesses alone are tremendous. It has to be somewhere in the millions of dollars if you factor in the ripple effects of crimes such as burglaries and thefts," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan

told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, has raised concern about the increase in crime on the islands and questioned why it seemed that so many of those who are arrested walk away with seemingly light sentences.

CNMI Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman, a guest speaker in yesterday's Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe, cleared some of the misconceptions about the sentences meted out to perpetrators of crimes.

Among other things, the community gets most of its information about crimes and sentencing from the media, which could report only a fraction of the cases and sentences that happen, along with the circumstances behind the sentence meted out.

Sentencing, which Wiseman described as one of the most important tasks of a judge, always has to consider the protection of the public and the rights of the suspects, among other things.

Another factor is a transient community wherein witnesses leave the islands even before investigations are completed or prosecutions begin. Due to lack of witnesses, for example, the accused enter plea bargain agreements that may result in lighter sentence.

Suspended sentences, moreover, do not mean those convicted of crimes are set free.

"The system still keeps a handle on

them," Wiseman said.

For example, an individual sentenced to one year all suspended except for 30 days for assault and battery can go back to jail if he or she violates the provisions of a probation.

Wiseman said in his personal opinion, crime control in the CNMI is "adequate."

Brennan said he was "absolutely thrilled" with the outcome of the membership meeting, given that Wiseman and the police officials were able to clear misconceptions that the business community has on crimes and sentencing.

"I've learned more than what I expected. Suspended sentence doesn't mean they walk away scot-free. They're still in the system and they can still go back to jail," said Brennan, who is also the general manager of Microl Corp.

Mark Birmingham, manager at MCV, said there have been many cases of unauthorized cable TV connections in the CNMI but he said calls made to NMI Crime Stoppers have been a big help not only in tracking down illegal cable connections but other crimes as well.

Number of crimes

Ogumoro told Chamber members and guests that there were roughly 900 traffic and criminal cases reported in the first three months of 2010.

However, in an interview later, he said there were actually 1,305 cases, many of them traffic violations. He didn't have his notes during his actual presentation.

For the purposes of their presentations, DPS was only able to prepare a breakdown of most of the criminal cases.

Over 31 percent of the 1,305 cases directly impacted businesses: 123 burglaries and thefts; 273 thefts; one robbery; four forgeries; 10 bad check issuances; and one counterfeiting.

Ogumoro said these cases do not yet include other crimes such as assaults and batteries, domestic violence, rapes, disturbing the peace, as well as traffic violations.

Brennan said an average of five thefts and burglaries a day is an "exorbitant" number.

"How safe are we in the CNMI?" he asked.

'Look out for each other'

Besides narcotics problems, the decline in the economy has also been a factor in criminal activities in the community.

One of the Chamber members asked DPS officials, "What can the public do to help prevent crimes and catch suspects?"

DPS spokesman Eric David, as well as DPS' Sgt. Joe Saures, said community needs to be vigilant of their surroundings and should look out for their neighbors.

For example, if one sees a suspicious person hanging around his neighbor's property, he should ask that person about his business or at least make note of his or her vehicle's license plate.

"You should watch each other's back

because the police won't be there all the time," said David.

Saures, who is involved in the Enforcement of the Underage Drinking Law, said a pending bill seeking to extend the hours of selling alcohol would defeat law enforcement efforts.

"Is it really the businesses we are trying to save or the community? It's something we have to think about," he said.

How many police are there?

David said there are approximately 108 DPS personnel, 85 to 90 of whom are uniformed or sworn-in police officers.

Of the uniformed officers, only 20 to 21 are with the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Businessman Steve Jang expressed frustration over some investigators whom he said seemed to lack training or common sense.

But Chamber vice president Jim Arenovski noted that DPS has done a lot given its limited resources.

Wiseman, for his part, said "there are really some good detectives out there."

There are also currently 38 individuals in the Police Academy, who are getting paid \$13,000 a year. Once they complete their training, they get additional \$3,000, for a total of \$16,000 as entry-level annual salary.

"We have the lowest salary for police officers in the nation. Even Guam officers are getting paid a lot more than their counterparts here in the CNMI," David told *Saipan Tribune*.

Application now in the works for a Kagman community health center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A community health center may soon be established in one of the most populated areas on island if the federal government approves the funding request for a Kagman Community Health Center.

Speaking at a town hall meeting his office organized Tuesday night at the Northern Marianas College, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan said the local government is currently drafting an application to tap a portion of the federal stimulus money for this purpose.

Once built, the center would help stem the flood of patients at the Commonwealth Health Center, particularly for minor illnesses, he said.

The proposed health center at Kagman will be manned by a family physician who will screen and diagnose patients' conditions, Sablan said.

Because the center will focus on preventive health care, Sablan is convinced that CHC doctors could focus more on treating major illnesses.

"The [health center] will serve as the primary caretaker of people in that area. The doctor will diagnose the patients and if they need to go to a specialist, that's the only time they will be sent to CHC. This way, we will eliminate the flooding of patients in our hospital," he said.

During the two-hour meeting, Sablan explained why the local hospital has not been as "successful" as others in tap-

ping into *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* funds.

"DPH got some...but the large grants under ARRA and under the health care plan go to community health centers and we don't have them here," Sablan told the audience.

He said the CNMI's applications for some ARRA funds have been denied as a result of not having these centers.

The U.S. Department of Human and Health Services has offered an \$80,000 fund to assist states and territories draft applications for ARRA funding for health purposes and the CNMI has taken advantage of this offer, Sablan said.

"In order to have a community health center, you need to qualify for what they call Section 330 designation...and CNMI doesn't have that designation yet and that's what we're putting together now," he explained.

The application for Section 330 eligibility will eventually allow the CNMI to build a health community center, he said.

"The first plan is to have it in Kagman," he added.

CHC has been placed under a state of emergency due to a lack of physicians and medical services.

To date, there are 38 physicians and 235 nurses at the hospital, 75 percent of whom are nonresident workers.

The exodus of physicians at Saipan's lone public hospital is blamed on the unattractive salary and benefits offered to qualified candidates.

Golden Week said to sparkle with 12 Japan charter flights

The gleam of Golden Week is already starting to shine for Northern Marianas' tourism, after major air carriers announced 12 charter flights to the island destination from Japan during the holiday season.

This year's Golden Week, a collection of four national holidays in Japan, will fall between April 29 and May 5. During this high-travel period, Asiana Airlines will operate five charter flights to the Northern Marianas from Narita, four from Osaka and one from Hiroshima during the holiday. Delta Airlines will also operate two flights from Narita.

In total, the charters will make 2,947 more seats available from Japan during the week: 1,770 from Narita, 1,000 from Osaka and 177 from Hiroshima.

"This is good news," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "There is obviously consumer demand to visit the Northern Marianas during the Golden Week holiday, and these charters are a travel industry re-

CNMI's total federal grants in FY'09: \$168M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan told a jampacked town hall meeting at the Northern Marianas College Tuesday night that the CNMI received a total of \$168 million in federal funds last fiscal year and estimates over \$200 million in assistance this year.

He said the total amount includes all payments to beneficiaries of various federal programs, PELL grants, and financial support from the U.S. Department of Education.

"The \$168 million is a collection and compilation of all federal money sent to the CNMI by the federal government," said Sablan.

This fiscal year, he estimates that total federal grants will reach over \$200 million for



Sablan

the CNMI, almost twice the local government's budget. This doesn't include the American Recovery Investment Act funds, which began coming in this fiscal year, he added.

"The CNMI has received \$92 million in ARRA funds so far, including the SFSF for educational purposes...and this amount will continue to increase pending the result of grant applications from the CNMI," said Sablan.

The \$92 million includes all grants that were approved and awarded the Commonwealth, such as State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, of which \$16 million has yet to be released to the CNMI.

Sablan warned, though, that the CNMI is at risk of not having the same success in tapping

» Total ARRA money awarded so far: \$92M

future federal assistance next fiscal year.

First, he emphasized the importance of complying with policies that created the federal grants in order to continue accessing the same funding assistance, such as the "maintenance of effort" agreement under the SFSF, which gave the Public School System \$44 million.

Sablan said that compliance with the requirements and understanding the policies of these federal grants is vital to maintaining the trust and support of granting agencies.

Another factor that may deter chances for future federal funds is the CNMI's seeming lack of commitment to implement the programs for which it applied for funding.

Sablan cited the CNMI's "unspent" capital improvement program funds, which amounts

to about \$50 million.

The money, provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior, is intended to build the islands' infrastructure to help jumpstart the economy. Many of these projects have been delayed for many years now due to various factors.

"Interior officials have been bringing this concern to the attention of our government... why isn't this money being spent?" he asked.

Based on his latest conversation with Interior officials, Sablan said the CNMI government has already assured the federal agency that these CIP projects will move forward.

"I understand that they have some changes in the system now, and in fact, DOI officials are excited about moving this money forward," he said.

"To successfully get more federal money for the CNMI, we have to act together," he added.

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Fitial administration to PSS: Do not mislead the public

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration said yesterday that the Public School System and other officials should not mislead the public in justifying exemption from the austerity measure at a time when government resources continue to dwindle and PSS could afford to provide laptops for every middle and high school students, among other things.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the federal government has approved the CNMI's request for a waiver on the "maintenance of effort" requirement, knowing that the local government's resources continue to go down.

PSS officials have been asking for exemption from the House austerity bill, citing the need to meet the MOE requirement to avoid losing \$16 million to \$47 million or more in federal funds if the measure is enacted into law.

The Fitial administration said Hawaii and other states have implemented furlough methods that include their public school systems and judiciary and still managed to maintain their federal funds.

House Bill 17-45, which is now at the Senate, seeks to reduce government work hours from 80 to 70 per pay period to cut costs by some \$4.5 million for the remainder of FY 2010.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget submission for Fiscal Year 2011 reflected a \$132 million budget ceiling, down from the already revised \$137 million for the rest of FY 2010.

Waiver

Demapan said the "maintenance of effort" agreement requires a state or jurisdiction to provide the same level of funding as in previous years to education, using FY 2006 as the base year for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

Demapan said the CNMI waived the MOE requirements "as we knew we were unable to maintain that same level of funding based on the trend of declining resources."

"We did this during the application process and as consequence of the grant being approved, the request for waiver was approved. The waiver requirements maintain that if a jurisdiction can't maintain the same funding level, that the same percentage provided in FY06 is given in the grant years. Thus, the administration made sure that the same percentage of funding was made available to ensure that we remain in compliance with the waiver requirements for the MOE," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

RELATED NEWS

■ USDOE execs warn of possible recall of SFSF

PAGE 7

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, said Demapan, is composed of two separate funds: The Government Service Fund, which is \$8 million, and the Educational Service Fund, \$44.3 million. The entire amount was awarded to the Office of the Governor, but the use of the ESF is specific to PSS and NMC as sub-grantees. The GSF was used to cover costs associated with medical referrals, public health and public safety. In addition, the Office of the Governor gave \$2 million of the \$8 million to PSS to cover the salaries for 44 positions at Garapan Elementary School.

Demapan said Fitial administration has exhausted all but roughly \$500,000 of the GSF.

"Therefore, contrary to the delegate's allegation, it is clear that the administration has al-

ready spent its share timely and wisely," he said.

On the other hand, the ESF is to cover renovations, repairs, technology, and personnel at PSS.

Demapan said PSS was supposed to bring in 105 new positions, "but for some reason, they were only able to hire 55 people."

'Irresponsible'

He said PSS requested to reprogram the remaining amount for personnel "so that they could buy students in the middle and high school laptops for their personal use."

"The administration questioned the motive of this decision because it was an irresponsible use of funds as there was no way that PSS was going to protect the assets if they essentially were going to give students a laptop—no guarantee of Internet access at home, no software; just give them a laptop," Demapan said.

The press secretary said their concern was that the money that



Demapan

the Office of the Governor gave PSS to cover the 44 positions at Garapan Elementary School would no longer be available "and we thought that the reprogramming would be better served if it was used to cover those salaries for teachers at GES for the next two years."

"PSS persisted that they needed the money for laptops and they agreed to cover the costs of the 44 positions themselves. Well, the laptop bid was protested due to their procurement process, thereby making it impossible to spend that money until the protest is resolved," Demapan said.

PSS principals have recently also been provided Blackberries with two-year service.

'Don't distort facts'

The Fitial administration said it is moving quickly on projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with over \$11 million in ARRA money out for bid or already under contract.

Demapan cited as an example the Cross-Island or Back Road expansion project as a visible sign that the CNMI is moving ARRA money.

"Delegate Kilili is not responsible in any way for the CNMI's ARRA funds. Based on the separation of powers, he can't request money in the form of grants as he is part of the legislative body. The grants are from the executive branch. Nowhere is his name on any single grant application in which ARRA money was received," he added.

Demapan said with the CNMI's financial condition and dwindling resources, this is the time for leaders and all departments and agencies to come together and explore available options to continue operations at a drastically reduced cost.

"Now is not the time to distort the facts for the sake of safeguarding the salaries of a few with total disregard to the rest of the government workers who will have to make the necessary sacrifices. Moreover, the financial condition of the Commonwealth is a matter that warrants immediate attention. Politicizing the sound fiscal decisions of the administration is not the answer, just because it is a federal election year," he said.

PSS has an enrollment of nearly 11,000 in 20 public schools.

Voter registration ongoing for delegate polls

Voter registration is now ongoing for the 2010 election for delegate, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Those who would like to register must bring a copy of their birth certificate, current United States passport, or naturalization documents.

"This is necessary to determine your citizenship and your eligibility to vote in the Northern Mariana Islands," the commission said.

The delegate election is scheduled on Nov. 2, 2010.

Any person qualified to vote

may register at the commission's office in Susupe, at the former U.S. Passport Office, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 11am and 1pm to 6:30pm. The office is closed during weekends and government holidays.

Eligible voters on Rota may register with Lelanie I. Manglona or Joseph A. Barcinas. Tinian residents may register with Jose P. Kiyoshi or Donald M. Hofschneider. Residents of the islands north of Saipan may contact the commission via government radios maintained at the Emergency Management Office.

Eligible voters who are outside the Commonwealth may go to www.votecnmi.gov.mp to download the required registration forms. Eligible voters who are homebound and require assistance registering to vote may contact the commission for more information.

A person is eligible to vote who, on Nov. 2, 2010, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, has resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the day of election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

Anyone requiring voter registration information may call the commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or via e-mail at info@votecnmi.gov.mp. (PR)

HOPWOOD CALENDAR

■ April 8, 2010: Report Card Day-Half Day for all students. Dismissal at 12:26pm. Parental conferences from 3pm to 6pm.

■ April 8, 2010: PTSA-Parent Teacher Student Association meeting from 6pm to 7pm at the Hopwood Jr. High School cafeteria.

■ April 10, 2010: HJHS Parent Summit, from 8am to 12pm. We will be discussing student test results, discipline structure, and upcoming events. We will also introduce you to our accreditation process and show you how parents can help.

■ April 17, 2010: Parent Literacy, from 8am to 12pm. Join us for our small workshop that will help you learn more about reading. (PR)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-024

"Laptops for Hopwood Jr. High School"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Laptops for Hopwood Junior High School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 8, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Fax request may be sent to 664.3791.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-024"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 22, 2010**, at 10:00 a.m., at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@ptc.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor of the Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda, for the above-referenced meeting:

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (March 2010)

II. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Procurement Rules and Regulations
 - a. Change orders
 - b. Contracting Officer
2. Supplemental Budget Request
 - a. SIA ARFF Training Center – AECOM Contract
 - b. Rota Manpower
3. Trash Collection RFP
4. Ginen Saipan

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

April 7, 2010
DATE

USDOE execs warn of possible recall of SFSF money

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials and legal counsels of the U.S. Department of Education have warned local lawmakers and education officials about the possible recall of all State Fiscal Stabilization Funds provided the CNMI if requirements are not be fully met.

This was the clear message of the federal officials to senators and officials of the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College during last week's teleconference on Capitol Hill.

The teleconference was also attended by CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

It was earlier disclosed that the U.S. Education Department is closely watching PSS for potential noncompliance with federal standards after news of the budget cuts the Fitial administration is implementing across all government agencies.

Saipan Tribune learned that the discussion focused on the "maintenance of effort requirements," which Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed in June last year.

Man allegedly chokes wife, threatens her with machete in front of five kids

A man allegedly choked his common-law wife in front of their five children and threatened her and her mother with a machete at their home in Chalan Kanoa Sunday afternoon.

Melvin Babauta Cabrera, 35, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During the struggle for possession of the machete, the victim's stepfather sustained a minor cut in his left palm, according to an investigator.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman imposed a \$25,000 cash bail for Cabrera's temporary release. Preliminary hearing was set for April 15.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglars victimize Navy Hill residence

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's help for information on a burglary incident that occurred at a residence on Navy Hill, early Sunday morning, April 4, 2010.

Early that morning, the victims awoke to discover their laptops missing. The victims checked the house and noticed they were burglarized. Two laptops were stolen along with a digital camera. The point of entry was through a window.

The items stolen include a silver Apple Macbook laptop, a silver Toshiba Tecra laptop, a black Panasonic Lumix digital camera, and a black purse containing a female's wallet, identification cards and keys.

Crime Stoppers offers a cash

SFSF provides the CNMI \$44 million in grant funds: \$8 million for the governor's office, \$34 million for public schools, and the rest for NMC. The funding hinges on the "maintenance of effort" requirement that PSS must get a share of at least 26.73 percent of the total government budget.

An administration-sponsored bill that is now pending in the Senate would result in PSS getting a lesser amount than the required 26.73 percent. PSS wants to be exempted from the austerity measures.

For FY 2011, PSS is recommended a \$30.1 million budget. Although this could meet the MOE requirement, any austerity cut would cause the budget to go down and result in not meeting the percentage cutoff.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero, said the USDOE officials and their legal counsels were very clear that the CNMI may lose all SFSF funding if the requirement is violated.

This comes as the CNMI still awaits the release of \$16 million

in additional SFSF funding.

"We will not only lose this \$16 million...but it was clarified by USDOE that the first phase of the grant we received will also be taken back from us...They may ask the CNMI to reimburse the full amount, which we already spent for our

educational programs," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Delegate Sablan confirmed the USDOE's message.

"If we violate the MOE, we will not receive anymore of the remaining \$16 million and we'll have to return some, if not most, of the \$28 million already re-

ceived by the CNMI," said Sablan during Tuesday's town hall meeting at NMC.

He said he will continue to lobby for the Legislature's support to exempt PSS from austerity cut.

He described the administration's intentions as "illogical"

since the government will save some \$4 million to \$5 million from the austerity cuts but will lose millions in federal grants.

He said the legal counsel and the USDOE management risk officers clarified the policy and the law that created the SFSF.

"They clarified the policy...and this is not [USDOE] discretionary...because this is the law," Sablan added.

worth of "ice" from Zhao on March 31.

The surveillance team reportedly spotted Zhao meeting with Zheng along Beach Road in San Antonio before Zhao handed the "ice" to the undercover officer.

Officers arrested Zhao and recovered from her the \$800 and \$100 out of the \$200 as well as 2.4 gross grams of "ice" that agents used in the two purchases. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

\$120K bail for 2 alleged 'ice' traffickers

Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos imposed yesterday a total of \$120,000 cash bail for the temporary release of two suspected traffickers of methamphetamine or "ice."

Inos set a \$60,000 cash bail each for Yushuang Zhao, female, and Feng Lin Zheng, male.

Preliminary hearing was set for April 14 at 9am.

Zhao and Zheng were arrested Wednesday for alleged "ice" trafficking and possession.

Police said \$970 cash and about five grams of "ice" with a street value of \$2,000 were seized from the suspects.

Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that Zhao had admitted that Zheng was her "ice" supplier.

Camacho said that on March 29, customs and police operatives used an undercover officer to buy \$200 worth of "ice" from Zhao along a gravel road leading to the former Michigan Garment Factory in San Antonio.

Using the same undercover officer, operatives again allegedly managed to buy \$800

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

2ND FLOOR, MORGAN BUILDING, SAIPAN MP, 96950 • TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

April 08, 2010



THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Capital Improvement Office Municipal Tinian	10/06/09 TMS-2009-X-080	Municipal Landfill Project	Atgidon, Tinian	MAJOR SITTING	Approved (02/11/10)
2. Sin Ho Ham	12/28/09 SSm-2010-X-001	Land Clearing	Obyan	Shoreline APC	Approved
3. Shinya Miyamoto	01/05/10 SS/Wm-2008-X-073(A)	Storage Room/Land Clearing	Achaguo	Shoreline APC	Approved
4. Phase, One LLC	01/06/10 SSm-2010-X-002	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/13/2010)*
5. Saipan Crew Boats	01/06/2010 SPIm-2010-X-003	Dry Dock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/12/2010)*
6. Saipan Marine Corp.	01/08/2010 SLRm-2010-X-004	Typhoon Mooring	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/26/2010)
7. Asia Marine Sports	01/22/2010 SLRm-2010-X-005	Snorkeling Tour	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (1/26/2010)
8. Saipan TV Production	01/25/2010 SSm-2010-X-006	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/25/2010)
9. DTC Saipan	01/27/2010 SSm-2010-X-007	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/27/2010)
10. Saipan USA Fisheries	01/27/2010 SPIm-2010-X-008	Dry Dock	Delta Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/27/2010)
11. Sea Lago Inc.	01/28/2010 SPIm-2010-X-009	Dry Dock	Able Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/28/2010)
12. Saipan Marine Corp.	02/4/2010 SLRm-2010-X-010	Mooring Buoy	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (02/09/2010)
13. Windsurfing Saipan	2/19/2010 SLRm-2010-X-011	Windsurfing	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved
14. Saipan Tripple Star	02/18/2010 SPIm-2010-X-012	One Storey Commercial Bldg	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (02/12/2010)
15. Asia Marine Sports	12/26/2009 SLRm-2010-X-013	Managaha Transfer	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (02/12/2010)
16. Globe Corporation dba Island Kayak	Lagoon & Reef SLRm-2010-X-014	Kayak Rental	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (03/24/2010)
17. Sakura Int'l	02/16/10 SLRm-2010-X-015	Managaha Transfer	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (02/16/2010)
18. YTS Micronesia	02/12/10 STLRm-2010-X-016	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (02/12/2010)
19. Juan T. Lizama	02/16/10 SPIm-2010-X-017	Land Leveling	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (02/18/2010)
20. DCCA	03/04/10 SSm-2010-X-020	29th Flame Tree Arts & Festival	Civic Center	Shoreline Areas	Approved (03/23/2010)
21. Pacific Quest Inc	03/10/10 SPIm-2010-X-021	Dry Dock	South Seaplane	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/25/2010)
22. CUC	03/17/10 SPIm-2010-X-024	Containment Berm	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/18/2010)
23. CUC	03/17/10 RPIm-2010-X-025	Existing Containment Berm	Rota Power Plant	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/18/2010)
24. Rota Resort & Country Club	03/23/2010 RMS-89-X-50(A)	Water Bottling	Rota	Amendments	Approved (03/26/2010)
25. Asia Marine Sports	03/30/10 SSm-2010-X-029	Concession	Garapan	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (03/30/2010)
26. CPA	03/31/10 SPIm-2010-X-030	Generator Building	CPA Ports	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/31/2010)
27. GPPC	03/19/10 TMS-2010-X-031	Quarry Operation	Tinian	Major Siting	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

NMC to hold auditions for Charter Day contests

The Northern Marianas College 2010 Charter Day Committee will be holding auditions for the celebration's three main competitions: the Marianas Idol, Charter Day Dance Crew Challenge, and Battle of the Bands.

Marianas Idol auditions will be held on April 21-22, Charter Day Dance Crew on April 26-27, and Battle of the Bands on April 19-20. Finalist selection will be held on April 28-29.

All auditions will begin at 5pm at the NMC Student Center. Finalists for all three competitions will be performing at the Charter Day festivities on May 7.

The competitions will be judged on categories that include stage presentation, entertainment value, and overall performance. Six finalists will be selected for Marianas Idol, three crews for the Dance Crew Com-

petition Challenge, and three bands for Battle of the Bands.

Those interested in competing may pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J at the college's As Terlaje campus. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

The Charter Day festivities will also be featuring several well-known entertainment groups from the island, including the INATUAS & Pacific Flowers dance groups, Maggie Naputi, the Black Sand band, and the newly formed rap group, Fatal Hitz.

The event will also hold special college competitions such as the Pika Proa Hot Pepper Eating Contest and the Coconut Husking Contest, along with the first ever Campus King & Queen Contest.

DFS named title sponsor of 2010 MMAC

Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd. has become a "title sponsor" of the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer, according to a statement issued yesterday by the 2010 MMAC committee.

Title sponsorship is the highest level of sponsorship for the Marianas March Against Cancer. To qualify as a "title sponsor," a company or business must donate \$3,000 or more in cash or services.

DFS Saipan is one of the oldest sponsors of this annual event and the 2010 MMAC committee expressed its sincere gratitude for the company's continued support in the battle against cancer.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 14-15 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The public is invited to a night of great food, live entertainment, fun games and other fundraising activities. All funds

raised will be spent locally on cancer patient assistance, cancer awareness programs and other cancer related services.

Raffle tickets and luminaries are being sold by the 13 teams for only \$5 each. Each luminary will be lit throughout the event and may be personally designed by the purchaser to honor a cancer survivor or to remember a loved one who has lost the fight against this deadly disease.

Raffle prizes up for grabs include a free ticket to Asia, a free ticket to the U.S. mainland plus other travel related items courtesy of 2010 MMAC title sponsor Delta Airlines.

For more information call 483-4207, e-mail janine.nogis@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

Other title sponsors are Joeten Charitable Foundation, Sorenson Media Group (Power 99/The Kat 97.9/ABC7), and Take Care/FHP. (MMAC)

UPCOMING MMAC TEAM EVENTS

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer committee would like to inform the public on the upcoming fundraising events by the 2010 MMAC teams:

■ Team Pacific Islands Club will be holding a car wash event on Saturday, April 10, at the PIC parking lot in San Antonio. The event will run from 8am to 11am. There are three packages available: Bronze, \$5 (exterior); Silver, \$15 (exterior/interior); Gold, \$25 (exterior/interior/waxing); van/larger vehicles (\$5 extra). All funds raised go towards PIC's contribution to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

■ Team PIC will also have a 50-km bike race on Sunday, April 11. Entry fee is only \$20. Interested individuals are encouraged to register by Friday, April 9, at the PIC front desk. For more information contact Evan Hunsberger at 234-7976.

■ Team PIC will be hosting

In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies, local accessories and apparel, snack booths and drink concessions.

For more information about

auditions, contact L.J. Castro at 234-5498 Ext. 1300 or e-mail luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu. For booth vending contact Alaysha Muna at 234-5498 Ext. 1300 or e-mail alaysham@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

PAWS MATTERS

Does your dog need some training?

A small group of dog owners are looking to get together for a dog-training lesson at American Memorial Park, two days a week for four weeks, from 5:00-6:00 or 6:30-7:30. The cost is about \$10 an hour.

Currently, there are two openings for the training sessions, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you are interested in training your dog, contact Lisa at lisahuyn@gmail.com.

Dogs up for adoption

Honey is a beautiful boonie mix who is around 9 years old. Honey loves people. She was a homeless dog who was rescued after being struck by a car. She had surgery to fix her leg but still has a noticeable limp. Honey is spayed, all up to date with her shots, and on heart guard.

She is great around children as well as adults. She is house trained and spends most of her time inside. She is very territorial and cannot live around other animals, especially dogs and cats, and needs to be in a fenced enclosure separated from all other animals when she goes outside. She also has severe coral allergies and needs to take steroids every morning with her meals. She is an amazing dog who loves to nurture and com-

fort her owners, especially staying close if someone is ill.

Her owners are leaving the island and cannot take her with them as they will be renting in a large city.

Call 989-7827 if you are interested in adopting her.

Lulubelle deserves to be loved

Lulubelle was found living in a park where she had been dumped. She was emaciated and looked awful.

Since then, she has blossomed into a best natured dog that appreciates the smallest of things. She twirls in circles each morning when being brought her food and is an avid snuggler and tail wagger. She is a mostly indoor dog and is not street smart.

She is about 3 years old, spayed, up to date on her shots, and on heart guard. She is nervous around men; it takes a patient man to win her over but once you do she will be your best friend. She is great with women and children as well as other pets.

Like Honey, her owners are leaving the island and can't take her with them.

She is a healthy and happy dog who needs a good loving home. Call 989-7827 if you are interested. (PR)

New session of 'Study Korea, Experience Korea' at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center is offering comprehensive classes to those who wish to improve their Korean language skills and experience Korean culture as a program of NMC-CDI.

The next session—April, May, and June—will contain a beginner's conversational course designed to reinforce the fundamentals of the Korean language. This proficiency-based language course also focuses on developing listening, comprehension, vocabulary, and expressions to be able to communicate in Korean.

The classes will take place from 5pm to 6pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am to 11am on Saturdays at the NMC As Terlaje campus.

The classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. Participants will also learn about the world cultural and textual heritage of Korea, one of the CNMI's important tourism market.

The world has witnessed the meteoric rise of the Republic of Korea as a major player on the international stage during the past several decades. There will be presentation on the breath-taking scenery and diverse climate of Korea, its rich cultural heritage and artistic life, its peace-loving yet passionate populace, and its continuous devotion to the Confucian ideals of filial reverence, social harmony, education, and self-enrichment.

A primary goal of 'Study Korea' is to encourage cultural understanding and to provide a site of cultural exchange between Koreans and CNMI residents. Students can try on Korean traditional costume and taste homemade folk foods. And you can travel into the history of the Land of Morning Calm. The Korean Cultural Center will present opportunities devoted to diverse aspects of Korean and Korean contemporary culture as well as traditional heritage.

The main office is located in Kagman. Contact Korean Cultural Center president Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail him at korean2221@gmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 8, 2002

'The delay was a big learning process'

The construction of the Saipan Adult Prison facility may have been delayed for over two years but House Speaker Heinz S. Hofsneider said the time wasted proved valuable to him in terms of pointing out the weaknesses in the present procurement system and teaching him of ways to lubricate the process. "Because of the long delay, it's somewhat anticlimactic but I think the process was a learning process, with the optimism that what I learned would be very useful for me, particularly in the Legislature, in the passage of legislation that would safeguard any similar government projects in the future," he said Friday, just before the groundbreaking ceremonies for the prison project. Although he did not specify them, Hofsneider acknowledged that there are some weaknesses in the procurement processes that need to be strengthened through legislation.

US to ink tourism deal on behalf of territories

In an initiative that is being seen as a bold move to revive the slumping tourism industry in the Pacific territories, the U.S. Department of Commerce will be flying to Japan later this month to ink an agreement with the Japanese government on behalf of Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia. Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio disclosed this Friday, during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Saipan Adult Prison project, and a day after he arrived from Washington D.C. At the same time, to give the American tourism delegation a more concrete idea of the Commonwealth's tourism potential, Tenorio said he has invited the group to swing by the CNMI before going back to the U.S. mainland. They have set April 20 as the tentative date for the visit.

April 8, 2003

Old defense sites puzzle CRMO, DEQ

The Coastal Resources Management Office has raised a question on jurisdiction over some formerly-used-defense-sites that may be contaminated with hazardous chemicals, saying that some of these fall within the agency's turf. CRMO administrator Joaquin D. Salas brought this before the Division of Environmental Quality, saying some sites are situated in so-called CRMO Areas of Particular Concern. Apparently, the Tanapag fuel farm—one of the 15 active FUDS besides the PCB contamination in Tanapag—falls within CRMO's APC. DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. confirmed that Salas called him last April 1, when the CRMO administrator allegedly told him the farm is located within a wetland.

Policy on part-time job for guest workers to take time

The adoption of new labor policies, including the proposed part-time job for nonresident workers, would take some time as the CNMI government intends to hold additional public hearings on the draft labor rules and regulations to ensure more input from the community. Gov. Juan N. Babauta's legal counsel, Pam Brown, said that, based on previous dialogues, the government saw that the public has so much more to say on the matter. "We're hearing these concerns. We're conducting more public hearings. So it's going to take a while before the rules and regulations are finally adopted and become applicable. Until that time, we welcome dialogues with the business community," said Brown in a recent forum with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

April 8, 2004

Atalig confirmed to Finance post

A relieved Fermin Atalig emerged from a high-strung Senate session yesterday morning with the necessary five votes that gave him the Department of Finance portfolio. After the confirmation, the Senate broke for recess, giving Atalig the chance to go around and thank all those who helped him survive the confirmation hearing, which was dominated by discussions about his outstanding debt with the Marianas Public Lands Authority. The Office of the Public Auditor had released just two days before the confirmation hearing its audit report on Atalig's outstanding debt with the agency.

Gateway is focused on quality education'

More than revenue generation, the Northern Marianas College's Pacific Gateway project's main focus remains on achieving quality education, according to acting NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero. "This is what I want to clarify. Revenue is a by-product of this program but our focus is to diversify student population to enhance the learning environment at NMC. We remain focused on our mission, that is to provide quality education to our students," said Guerrero.

SHRM tackles health care reform, HIRE Act effect on Commonwealth

The Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter will be highlighting the impacts of the national health care reform and the HIRE Act on the CNMI at its April general membership lunch meeting tomorrow, April 9, 2010, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), the guest speaker, will talk about some of the short and long-term provisions for the CNMI under two major federal laws that were recently passed by President Obama.

The lunch meeting will be from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This timely presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for both employers and employees to learn more about the Patient Protection and Affordable Act, better known as Health Care Reform Act, and the Hiring Incentives to Restore Em-

ployment, HIRE, Act.

The Health Care Reform Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010, and provides expanded health care coverage requirements and benefits for employees throughout the nation. The implementation of the Health Care Reform Act will start in 2010 and continue through 2018. However, not all components of the law are applicable to the CNMI.

On March 18, 2010, Obama also signed into law the HIRE Act, which contains hiring and business stimulus provisions that are designed to encourage businesses to hire and retain unemployed workers by providing major tax incentives for doing so. These tax incentives will be provided to CNMI employers through a carryover format with the local government.

After Sablan provides a briefing about both laws and their application in

the CNMI, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The presentation includes lunch and any handouts. The cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve one's seat by contacting Polly Deleon Guerrero, SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president, at the PIC at 237-5122 or e-mail Eric Plinske, SHRM CNMI Chapter president, at ericplinske@yahoo.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management with more than 250,000 individual members. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (SHRM)

Herb Schultz is new director for HHS Region IX

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced yesterday the appointment of Herb Schultz as the new HHS director for Region IX, which includes the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau, as well as Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

"I congratulate Mr. Schultz and look forward to working with him on the improvement of health care in the Northern Mariana Islands," said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), "particularly with respect to the implementation of the new health care reform law, which will be largely administered by Health and Human Services.

"Assuring the benefits of the new consumer protections, making sure that increased Medicaid funding is used effectively to improve the level of care for the 11,000 people in the Northern Marianas who use Medicaid services, and assisting the Governor in deciding on the benefits of implementing an insurance exchange with subsidies for premiums—these are all important aspects of health care reform that we will be implementing in coordination with HHS."

As regional director, Schultz will serve as a key representative of Secretary Sebelius.

Currently, Schultz is director of the

California Recovery Task Force, responsible for the oversight and implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Previously, he serviced as a principal advisor to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on health care reform.

Schultz received his bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Studies from The American University in Washington, D.C. and has a master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University, also in Washington, D.C. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

iSERVE, iGIVE BACK

POI Aviation joins the Tan Holdings family's iServe, iGive Back campaign with a cleanup drive held on March 26, 2010. The company's employees and officials cleaned up the road side of trash and debris, from the Tun Herman Pan Road intersection to the Flame Tree Road.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday greetings go out to Taliyah Victoria Sablan Bocago, who is celebrating her 6th birthday! Enjoy your day and enjoy your Disney princess event. We love you more and more as you grow. We love you always. Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to the man of our lives, Rex Ben, who celebrated his special day on April 4, 2010. We love you! Greetings come from your wife and children Royce, Rane and Roxy Ben.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Junior Night at Kagman High

To all parents and guardians of Kagman High School's Junior Class (11th graders), Junior Night will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm, at the Kagman High School Cafeteria. For any questions, call the school's office at 237-3840. (PR)

Kagman public hearing on austerity bill

The Office of Sen. Jovita Taimanao will be hosting a public hearing on the proposed austerity bill. The hearing will take place at the Kagman Community Center on April 13 at 6pm. All residents are strongly urged to attend this public hearing. (PR)

Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held tomorrow, April 9 at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that takes place every government payday. It begins at 4:30pm and ends at 10pm. This week's vendors feature Canton Restaurant, Lynn's Barbeque, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, Kagman Neighborhood Watch, and The Library Bookmobile.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 or email kagmankomunitatassociation@gmail.com. (PR)

Kagman poker parlor removal petition

The Kagman Komunitat Association will be having a signature drive at Puengin Inetnon at the Kagman Community Center. Interested Kagman residents who would like to abolish poker parlors from the village of Kagman can sign the petition. The petition will be presented to the Legislature. Interested individuals who would like to help can email kagmankomunitatassociation@gmail.com.

Kagman Neighborhood Watch

The Kagman Neighborhood Watch block captains will have an informational booth at the Kagman Street Market this Friday at the Kagman Community Center. Block captain Glenn Dikito and Block captain Eric Magofna will be recruiting block captains and members for Kagman Neighborhood Watch. Email glennndikito@gmail.com for more information. (PR)

UOG to host College Night on Saipan

The University of Guam will host a College Night on Saipan on April 19 to provide admissions, academic, and financial aid information high school students and their parents. The event will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center on Saipan on April 19 beginning at 6pm. The University of Guam will be administering the math placement test at various high schools. Contact Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services, at 735-2292 or julieuh@uguam.uog.edu for more information. (UOG)

NMC Charter Day set; vendors invited

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee has set the date of the celebration for May 7, 2010. NMC's Charter Day is an annual celebration of the college's service to the community as an institution of higher

learning. It will be 29 years this April since NMC was first chartered.

The committee is inviting different agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g., coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is on April 26, 2010. Booth space is limited, so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

For application forms, requirements, or for more information, contact Alaysha Muna at 234-5498 Ext. 1300 or email alaysham@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

DUI checkpoints this Friday, Saturday

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI checkpoints on April 9 and 10.

The first setup will be held on Saturday on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa, in front of Super Fresh Market on the northbound outer lane, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm. The second setup will be on Sunday on 2W Chalan Laulau in front of the IT&E building on the southbound outer lane, from 1am to 2:15am.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar 664-9084 or 664-9085. (PR)

House Speaker to discuss casino proposal on Marianas Agupa

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio will be a special guest on Marianas Agupa Chamorro Radio Talk show this Saturday April 10, between 10am and 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the proposed Saipan Casino Act of 2010.

Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association president Isidoro Cabrera will also be a special guest on the show between 9:30am and 10am.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Simultaneous Internet broadcast is via www.magic100radio.com is available. For more information, call Glenn Manglona at 287-4536 or e-mail marianna-sagupa@gmail.com. (PR)

John Gonzales Live for April 2010

Shows air live on KSPN Channel 2 on Wednesdays, 7pm-8 pm, with replays on Sundays and Mondays at 7pm-8 pm. *LIVE* Text: 285-META; *LIVE* Call: 287-4230; *LIVE* Email: johngonzales@pticom.com

■ April 7, 2010: *LIVE* 7-8 pm; replays 4/11 and 4/12 @ 7-8 pm

Topic: Autism Education and Awareness

Guests: NMI Autism Society and Tom Thornburgh (NMPASI)

■ April 14: *LIVE* 7-8 pm; replays 4/18 and 4/19 @ 7-8 pm

Topic: Aquaculture five-year plan!

Guests: Michael Ogo, NMC CREEs aquaculture specialist

■ April 21: *LIVE* 7-8 pm; REPLAYS

4/25 and 4/26 @ 7-8 pm

Topic: Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Awareness Month

Guests: Tinian EUDL Task Force and CNMI EUDL Task Force. (PR)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Airline passenger screening without the blunderbuss

The attempted bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight on Christmas Day was a catastrophe that was only narrowly averted. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian, allegedly boarded the Detroit-bound plane from Amsterdam with a bomb hidden in his pants. But when he reportedly tried to set it off, it failed to detonate.

In the scary aftermath, the Department of Homeland Security imposed broad new security rules requiring extra screening of incoming travelers from 14 countries, most of them largely Muslim, including Pakistan, Nigeria, Libya and Saudi Arabia. This was a frantic attempt to head off another possible attack.

Three months later, the administration has replaced the emergency plan with a more targeted approach. On Friday, DHS announced that it will implement new measures on all international flights coming to the United States.

Instead of scrutinizing everyone from certain countries, security personnel will focus on travelers who match intelligence information about potential threats. Even if authorities lack the name of an alleged plotter, they hope to be able to catch him through information such as physical features, age or past travels. By including all countries, DHS intends to prevent extremist groups from circumventing detection by avoiding those 14 nations.

Finding airline terrorists before they board is a task akin to finding a needle in a haystack. This new policy tries to shrink the haystack a bit. "It's much more tailored to what the intel is telling us," a senior administration official told Reuters.

It would be of obvious benefit to both security agents and passengers from the countries previously deemed suspect, neither of whom gains from the blunderbuss approach. Better use of intelligence would target attention where it is most needed. That was the real failure in the case of Abdulmutallab, who was suspected of having radical ties but somehow was not placed on the no-fly list.

The American Civil Liberties Union was among those with some words of praise for the change, saying the shift "away from blatant racial profiling shows a thoughtful approach to security."

Relying more on intelligence is a sound idea. But it requires sound use of information as well as the good investigative work needed to supply it. In the Christmas Day episode, it was not the policy that fell short so much as the people charged with carrying it out.

This looks like a better system. To improve our safety, though, it will need better execution.

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY
THE WORLD NEEDS AN ACCURATE
COUNT OF EVERYONE WHO'S
SLEPT WITH TIGER WOODS!

THAT'S NOT
THE REASON
FOR THE
CENSUS!

HIGH
TELEGRAM
& GAZETTE



Life without limits

Make your life a masterpiece by taking the 60 Day Challenge. As the artist, you can create any life you want by setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Each week until May 20th this column will share ideas and stories to help motivate you toward your objectives.

Courageous adventurers throughout history have demonstrated that seemingly insurmountable obstacles can be conquered once the limits of our imagination are lifted. These few indomitable individuals blow open the doors of fear and doubt to pave the way for others to explore both their inner and outer world.

What would you do if there were no limits to realize your sacred hopes and ambitions? What kind of person could you become if you had the faith and perseverance to accomplish something that others thought was impossible?

Charles Linster had the opportunity to test his physical and psychological limits after he entered New Trier high school in 1963 as a freshman. The school had a reputation of being the "Harvard of High Schools" because of its demanding curriculum and high academic standards. New Trier also stressed physical education, and every year students were given a physical fitness test in five areas. Young Charles' personal best in push-ups was 200, but on the day of the test he disappointed himself by only doing 123—four short of breaking the school's record.

He states in his article *The Ulysses Yield* (<http://www.recordholders.org/en/list/ulysses.html>) that he had become a push-up perfectionist and failed, but he later found comfort in a quote from concert violinist Jascha Heifetz: "There is no such thing as perfection, there are only standards. And after you have set a standard you learn that it was not high enough. You want to surpass it."

Charles loved mythology and the assignment to read the *Odyssey* by Homer was not only a delight, but it inspired him with the stories of Ulysses' extraordinary drive and exploits. In the ensuing months, Charles channeled his drive through physical pursuits. He joined the school's gymnastic squad and established new personal standards to outperform his previous best effort in push-ups. He was able to perform 222, then 333 the next day, and two weeks later he raised his standards by executing an amazing 444 push-ups.

His new personal bests shattered a psychological barrier that caused him to think that records could only be broken in small increments. This motivated Charles to explore his own personal limits and over the ensuing months and years, his goal to do more push-ups than anyone became his personal obsession.

On Oct. 5, 1965, he took his junior year push-up test and after

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGRAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC.



three hours and 54 minutes, Charles Linster completed an incredible 6,006 non-stop push-ups. His feat was so amazing that it would take challengers more than a decade to beat his record.

Charles had surpassed his physical limits and like Ulysses, had used his compelling drive to overcome a seemingly insurmountable barrier. We could end here with this incredible story, but as Paul Harvey used to say on his radio program, "here's the rest of the story."

Shortly after achieving the world record for push-ups, Charles set a new goal to break his own record, but it was cut short 69 days later during a gymnastics practice. He broke his neck and became permanently paralyzed. Feeling like a prisoner trapped in his own body, he overcame depression by mustering the same qualities that compelled him to best his physical limits. His new challenge was to conquer his inner world, and realize his new goal of physical independence.

Charles used the same drive that caused him to achieve what others felt was impossible, to motivate him during his rehabilitation. He did whatever was asked of him and more, and his progress surprised everyone around him—even himself. He was able to graduate from school, continue his education, find employment, marry and raise a family.

A book called *The Ulysses Factor* by J.R.L. Anderson gave Charles' insight into the same drive that caused him to resonate with Homer's Ulysses. Anderson's premise was that there is some factor in man "which prompts a few individuals to exploits which, however purposeless that they may seem, are of value to the survival of the race."

Charles Linster goes on to state that "after all the seas were crossed and the land explored, men invented new challenges to satisfy this compulsion... Others were athletes who prepared their bodies and minds to new extremes." He believes that "although this factor is present in all humans, it is highly developed in only a few. In times

See LIFE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor**State of the Commonwealth**

Federalization has addressed the international reputation of labor abuses and human exploitation in the CNMI. Federal officials have confirmed that workers are no longer tied to their jobs, and federalization proponents can thank the U.S. Congress for ensuring that the democratic ideals of our nation apply to the CNMI.

Only months into U.S. intervention and Saipan has virtually no labor abuse, and not much is expected. The cruelest form of labor abuse, however, is unemployment, and Saipan has catastrophic unemployment among aliens and citizens alike, the remnants of an economy driven by the textile industry. The CNMI is the most impoverished American region of the last half century. There may have been over 10,000 illegal aliens as well, but an umbrella permit was honored by the U.S., effectively stalling some aspects of federalization for two years. The governor's strategy to stall U.S. intervention blanketed maids, dancers, illegal business operators, their employees, freelancers, and every immigration fraudster who lined up, so they have a legal right to remain in the CNMI until November 2011.

There is little employment on Saipan for the near foreseeable future. Foreign-owned businesses operating here must exit when their two-year permit expires. CNMI investor visa holders have until 2014 to meet U.S. investor visa requirements or restructure their business and move.

The status of guest workers is controversial. Many citizens say they came to work and improving their status will destroy the fragile economy by enabling thousands of impoverished persons to receive federal aid, paralyze the unemployed CNMI (and school system) with relatives from abroad, and grant thousands of unfunded foreign workers a right to operate businesses. Others believe workers, even those that committed immigration fraud, are entitled to an improved status or green card based on seniority.

There were about 22,000 foreign nationals that registered at the Ombudsperson Office and the major hotels and largest NMI employers have about 2,000 contract guest workers on the payroll. The number of freelancers, fraudsters, illegal business operators, and their employees in that number is speculative.

The regulations governing guest workers are not final, but if they mirror the original version, the unique CW transitional guest workers program used in conjunction with the CNMI transitional investors visa program will make right what was long wrong in the CNMI.

A bill floating in the U.S. Congress would grant residency, not permanent residency green cards, to workers with U.S. citizen children until they can petition their parents at age 21. Those effected persons could not bring additional relatives to the U.S. That plan could ease suffering if they are allowed travel privileges, because the laws of supply and demand will prevail in the job market. If the proposed law restricts travel for unemployed workers, then the U.S. will have made Saipan a national disaster. Guam needs 20,000 workers for the U.S. military buildup, and some think NMI workers should be allowed to travel to Guam for work, but others think they will be subject to abuse there as well. Neither Guam officials nor residents want unskilled permanent residents from the NMI. The CNMI hopes the Guam buildup will employ citizens earning prevailing wages, which will stimulate the region and spill into the Commonwealth. Employing cheap alien labor would insult millions of unemployed Americans and may jeopardize the Democratic Congressional majority if highlighted.

Governor Fitial has lost much respect among local citizens not on his payroll due to his abuse of power, unqualified Cabinet selections, embarrassing the CNMI internationally regarding massage-gate, inaction during a local exodus abroad, his belligerence toward the federal government, allegations of corruption, his exclusion from talks over military activity, his exclusion from drafting regulations, abysmal stewardship of our resources, control and plunder of the Retirement Fund, dreadful counsel and advisement, obsession to restrict guest workers, his control of the AG, failure to keep campaign promises, orchestration of a law reducing salaries of government workers that excluded the Legislature and himself,

and blanketing of all aliens with an umbrella permit that doomed opportunity for unemployed local citizens and forced the austerity salary reduction.

Though all CNMI politicians are "for education," students in the Commonwealth public schools are the nation's most financially challenged per child. Austerity and reality demand CNMI constitutional changes. The CNMI spends an extraordinary amount for governance and has unnecessary bureaucratic waste. A small government would prove affordable, flexible, and able to adapt to a rapidly changing world. CNMI professionals would volunteer for a city council to aid in this transition.

The land alienation law continues to prohibit growth and development, but impoverished residents have little confidence in the Legislature's ability to enact reform. CNMI residents face four serious economic problems. First, about 50 percent of CNMI residents send earnings abroad as remittances, undoubtedly the highest percentage on the planet. While the Philippines survive by receiving money, the CNMI has an extraordinarily high percentage of people remitting their income abroad. Second, our banks send our depositors' money to other shores to stimulate their economies, chiefly Guam and Hawaii, instead of investing where the wealth originated. Third, foreign workers are willing to accept jobs below prevailing wage, making local citizens unable to compete for jobs that they should be performing. This increases our numbers receiving U.S. aid. The recent austerity measure reduced government workers hours by 10 hours a pay period, or 12.5 percent of NMI government employees' yearly economic wealth is lost. Lastly, illegal foreign businesses operate here without a U.S. investor visa and send their profits off-island as well, strengthening their East Asian homelands but paralyzing the CNMI. These businesses will close before November 2011.

The post-textile industry CNMI is a welfare territory and fraud to obtain U.S. federal aid is evidenced by shocking statistics. According to the local news, the CNMI has roughly three households receiving U.S. federal aid for every voter, an astonishing admission of fraud. Numbers indicate many residents must draw multiple paychecks per household. Food stamps are traded among guest workers and politicians alike. Former senators in the NMI have been sent to federal prison for having 27 ghost employees on their payroll. Real estate sales are slow and leases realize record lows, upscale housing is limited, and there is a glut in substandard structures. Financing commercial or residential property is difficult and the cost of money is pricey. Accurate appraisals are tough to find, and many Saipan properties have expiring leases from the boom time of the early '90s. CDA loan default rates are nearly 90 percent, and title issues with unresolved probates are routine.

A CNMI Senate initiative seeks to change the Article XII land alienation law (restricts land ownership to persons of Northern Marianas descent and all others can exceed a 55 year lease term) to allow 99-year leases. If passed, it would create real estate activity because FDIC banks consider a 99-year lease equal to a fee simple for financing purposes. Land value is based on supply and demand, and demand is largely based on the availability and cost of money. When people can easily qualify for a low-interest loan, prices skyrocket, but high interest and difficult borrowing requirements create the stagnant mess that now exists. The advantage to the 99 years is that locals could get an extra bite at the apple, but the disadvantage is that it will lose in court the first time a U.S. citizen, NMD or not, challenges the law after Nov. 4, 2011.

For short takes, restaurants and bars are suffering from high utilities, poor water, and rising minimum wages. Russian, Chinese, and Korean investors are funding small construction, chiefly personal homes, generally cash customers due to difficult financing. A bill to legalize marijuana has been offered by a lawmaker that could have economic merit if properly administered, unlikely for a Legislature unable to manage a lemonade stand without federal funding. Being displayed in the cases of Amsterdam would provide more advertisement, economic development, and enhancement of tourism than MVA has ever accomplished, though, and could add an export

product currently lacking in the economy! Casino talk for the outer islands has waned even though the island of Rota pays a casino commission. Tinian's casino looks like a ghost town with a curtain closing half the gaming floor to reduce utilities. The only economic opportunity for young people on either of those islands is welfare or a ticket east. The House Speaker has proposed Saipan casinos again even though two straight referendums were soundly defeated. The long term trajectory of U.S. intervention could unite Guam and the CNMI into the Marianas Province. A united MP could potentially become the 51st state and have two voting senators in Congress. The CNMI legislature will not support this because it would jeopardize the gravy train they themselves are riding. The NMI landed the Marianas Marine Monument, but the visitors center for that wonder of the world may land in Guam. Northwest's split with Continental has opened European and Asian ports offered by Delta, United, and all their partners, opening Saipan to vast new markets. CNMI involvement in the Marine relocation remains unclear.

Perhaps the brightest recent news for the CNMI is visa waivers for Russians and Chinese tourists, the only U.S. soil with that distinction. Russian and Chinese arrivals are on the rise and have incredible potential considering that there are thousands of millionaires within short flight range. The market possibilities for winter residences are enormous. Korean tourism continues to improve, helping to offset a collapse in Japanese arrivals. There is a spark of investor confidence attributed to the stabilizing effects of federalization and the visa waivers. Politics and economics aside, Saipan, the capital of the Northern Marianas Islands, is an enchantingly tranquil tropical delight of unimaginable beauty; highlighted by turquoise crystal water, fire red sunsets, panoramic views, and unparalleled weather. Saipan's has hosted 3/4 million tourists in a single year, entirely from East Asia, making Saipan a playground of seaside golf, scuba diving, sport fishing, snorkeling, parasailing, wind surfing, kayaking, biking, beach volleyball, and barbecuing on the remote pristine beaches. The friendly laidback nature of the inhabitants is as legendary as the tropical breezes. Saipan's economic strength is smallness and geographic location. With Saipan's tiny number of citizens, a little improvement in the regional economy, a minute amount of U.S. investment, or developing a second economic leg could have a dramatic positive effect on the economy.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Analyze situation first

Dear Rep Stanley Torres: I've always trusted your judgment in assuring the general public that you represent them in their best interest. As stated in my earlier letter to you, even the very people that were prescribed the use of marijuana become dealers themselves. So I don't understand why anyone would advocate the legalization of such. A recent letter to the editor addressed to you stated, "Please get the initiative on the ballot to help the sick, our tourist market, and to help the many local people who want to use marijuana for medicinal purposes." Our tourist market? Go figure! I don't want to create any problem with Mr. Agulto as he may be related to me. Just wanted you to analyze the situation first before boldly making a move that would devastate the future of our children.

Jack Taitano
Brooklyn, New York, NY

Coral reef presentation

On Thursday, March 25, 2010, Ms. Brooke Nevitt came to our school to do a presentation on corals. Ms. Brooke works for Coastal Resource Management. She said that corals are very important to us because they protect us from tsunamis and give homes and food to the fish. She said that we shouldn't destroy them because they take thousands of years to grow.

Ms. Brooke also told us how we can save corals. What we can do is don't step on corals, keep trash away from beaches, don't fish with oil or bleach, and don't take corals from the water. It is illegal to take corals without a permit.

During the presentation, we met Primo, the Yellow Crowned Butterfly Fish. This fish is special because it's only found in the Marianas. It lives in the coral reefs deep in the ocean.

Thank you Ms. Brooke for your presentation.

Jeanelyn Gomez
4th Grade Student
WSR Elementary School

LIFE

From Page 10

of trouble, those few lead themselves and others to safety."

He knew that someday, someone would take the challenge to beat his record by training harder and longer until their goal was achieved. However, from a perspective that can only come from age and experience, we'll end with this insightful life lesson from Charles Linster: "But in the greater scheme of things, it really doesn't matter who can do the most push-ups. What is important

is what I derived from the quest. I discovered and cultivated the virtues of discipline, sacrifice, and perseverance within me while pursuing a dream. Shortly after achieving that dream, I found myself engulfed in a nightmare. But the survival component of the Ulysses factor, that leads people to safety in times of trouble, came to my rescue. Had I known in advance that I was going to break my neck, I couldn't have prepared myself better for the demanding task of rehabilitation than to train for the world push-up record. I strove, sought, and found, but unlike Tennyson's Ulysses, my quest yielded me the fortitude I needed to rehabilitate myself to complete independence."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 48
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 70
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 53
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 93 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 58
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 71
New York	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 61
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 46
Paris	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 39
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 47
Rome	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 51
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 43
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 65

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:31 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
10:02 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.1 Feet
2:29 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
9:53 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM	Today	1:49 AM	1:29 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM	Friday	2:28 AM	2:17 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM	Saturday	3:04 AM	3:04 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	3:40 AM	3:51 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	4:15 AM	4:38 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5
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SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

02608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

02604	2:20am	6:10am	1
02604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
02606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6
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SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6
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SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

02604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
02604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
02606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
02606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

02604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
02604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
02606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:03pm	1, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

Business

Documents: Toyota lagged in issuing US warnings

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

		
AUSTRALIA 4,983.200 Up 9.100 (+0.18%)	HONG KONG 21,920.73 Up 383.73 (+1.78%)	JAKARTA 2,899.241 Up 18.272 (+0.63%)
		
TOKYO 11,292.83 Up 10.51 (+0.09%)	K. LUMPUR 1,343.70 Down 0.67 (-0.05%)	SINGAPORE 2,992.57 Up 17.06 (+0.57%)
		
SEOUL 1,726.6 Up 0.51 (+0.03%)	BANGKOK 818.38 Up 10.23 (+1.27%)	

LEADING INDICATORS

	DOW 10,969.99 -3.56
	NASDAQ 2,436.81 0.00
	S&P 1,189.43 0.00

MONEY MARKET

	Australian Dollar 1.0777
	British Pound 0.6559
	Canadian Dollar 0.9988
	Chinese Renmbi 6.8254
	Euro 0.7466
	Hong Kong Dollar 7.7637
	Indian Rupee 44.422
	Indonesian Rupiah 9053
	Japanese Yen 93.88
	Malaysian Ringgit 3.2055
	New Zealand Dollar 1.4189
	Philippine Peso 44.78
	Singapore Dollar 1.3962
	South Korean Won 1120.6
	Swiss Franc 1.0692
	Taiwan Dollar 31.568
	Thailand Baht 32.345

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Toyota issued internal repair procedures to its own distributors in 31 European countries about sticking accelerator pedals months before it warned U.S. regulators about the problem—and on the same day it told the U.S. government it would conduct a recall over loose floor mats, according to Toyota documents obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood earlier this week cited the Sept. 29 European warnings in his decision to assess a record \$16.4 million fine on the Japanese automaker for failing to alert the U.S. government to its safety problems quickly enough. LaHood on Tuesday said Toyota made a “huge mistake” by not disclosing safety problems with gas pedals on some of its most popular models sooner.

Detailed chronologies provided by Toyota to the government and obtained by the AP show rising concerns at the end of 2009 about sticking gas pedals and complaints from Toyota owners in the U.S. about the problem. According to the documents, Toyota’s European

division issued technical information to the European distributors “identifying a production improvement and repair procedure to address complaints by

customers in those countries of sticking accelerator pedals, sudden rpm increase and/or sudden vehicle acceleration.”

On the same day, Toyota told



U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood speaks during a news conference at O’Hare International Airport, Tuesday, April 6, 2010, in Chicago.

the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of its decision to recall several Toyota and Lexus vehicle models “to address the risk of accelerator pedal entrapment by all-weather floor mats,” according to a timeline of the company’s handling of the floor mat recall. The two timelines, entitled “preliminary chronology of principal events,” were provided to the government on March 24.

Toyota has said the problems involved separate issues and in the case of the sticking gas pedals, the problem was related to the buildup of condensation on sliding surfaces in the accelerator system that helps drivers push down or release the gas pedal.

The documents obtained by

AP were among 70,000 pages of papers turned over to government investigators. They detail internal communications and testing of the sticking pedals before Toyota presented its findings to NHTSA four months later, during a meeting in Washington on Jan. 19. Two days later, Toyota announced it would recall 2.3 million vehicles to address the sticking pedals.

On Oct. 7, according to the timeline, a staff member of Toyota’s product planning and management division at the company’s headquarters in Japan sent a Toyota colleague in North America a copy of engineering change instructions describing the same design changes for the accelerator pedal of a Toyota RAV4 as was implemented in Europe.

FCC loses a key ruling on Internet ‘neutrality’

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal court threw the future of Internet regulations into doubt Tuesday with a far-reaching decision that went against the Federal Communications Commission and could even hamper the government’s plans to expand broadband access in the United States.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the FCC lacks authority to require broadband providers to give equal treatment to all Internet traffic flowing over their networks. That was a big victory for Comcast Corp., the nation’s largest cable company, which had challenged the FCC’s authority to impose such “network neutrality” obligations on broadband providers.

Supporters of network neutrality, including the FCC

chairman, have argued that the policy is necessary to prevent broadband providers from favoring or discriminating against certain Web sites and online services, such as Internet phone programs or software that runs in a Web browser. Advocates contend there is precedent: Nondiscrimination rules have traditionally applied to so-called “common carrier” networks that serve the public, from roads and highways to electrical grids and telephone lines.

But broadband providers such as Comcast, AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. argue that after spending billions of dollars on their networks, they should be able to sell premium services and manage their systems to prevent certain applications from hogging capacity.

Citi execs may be in for surprises at crisis probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former executives of Citigroup Inc. could be in for some surprises when they appear before a panel investigating the roots of the financial crisis.

Commissioners and staffers for the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission are readying pointed questions for eight former and current Citigroup executives due to testify at hearings that begin Wednesday. Some questions are based on a review of about 2 million pages of documents the commission has obtained, including 1 million pages from Citigroup.

That means witnesses including the bank’s former CEO Chuck Prince and former chairman Robert Rubin may be confronted with their own words, as preserved in e-mails and memos

Oil hovers below \$87 after mixed US supply report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below \$87 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed U.S. gasoline supplies fell more than expected last week while crude and distillate inventories rose.

Benchmark crude for May delivery was down 4 cents to \$86.80 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 22 cents to settle at \$86.84 on Tuesday, while earlier in the day prices touched a new 18-month high of \$87.09 a barrel.

Gasoline inventories dropped last week by 3.0 million barrels, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Analysts had expected a fall of 1.0 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

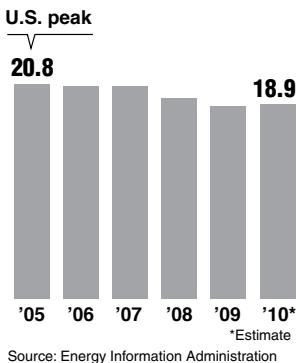
However, inventories of crude and distillates rose, the API said.

The Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration is scheduled to announce its supply report later Wednesday.

Some analysts point to growing crude demand in developing countries as reason

Oil consumption in U.S. declines

U.S. consumption of petroleum products refined from crude oil, in millions of barrels per day:



to expect prices will extend a two-month rally.

“Evidence of a steady rebound in global oil demand is continuing to accumulate,” Barclays Capital said in a report. “Non-OECD Asian and Middle Eastern demand continues to grow at a phenomenal pace.”

In other Nymex trading in May contracts, heating oil fell 0.52 cent to \$2.2631 a gallon, and gasoline rose 0.63 cent to \$2.3546 a gallon. Natural gas jumped 3.6 cents to \$4.132 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude was up 5 cents at \$86.20 on the ICE futures exchange.

provided to the commission.

The three days of hearings will feature testimony focused on high-risk mortgage lending and the way trillions of dollars in risky mortgage debt was spread through the financial system. The hearing is designed to provide a firsthand accounting of decisions that inflated a mortgage bubble and triggered the financial crisis.

The panel is using Citigroup as a case study because the bank was heavily involved in every stage of that process. The megabank was a major subprime lender through its subsidiary CitiFinancial. Other divisions of Citigroup pooled those loans and loans purchased from other mortgage companies and sold the income streams to investors.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

2 die in NM crash with suspected bank robber

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

(AP)—Two women have died after their car crashed head-on into the vehicle of a suspected bank robber fleeing a police pursuit in Albuquerque. Police say a vehicle that left the scene of a bank robbery was traveling the wrong way on a street when it crashed into a car Tuesday. Authorities say one woman in that car died at the scene, and the other was pronounced dead at a hospital. They were later identified as 34-year-old Kimberly Aragon-Nunez and 28-year-old Janice Flores, both from Albuquerque. Police say the male suspect fled on foot to a nearby home, where officers took him into custody. He was later identified as 31-year-old Jeremiah Jackson, of Albuquerque. They say he will face federal charges related to the deaths and the robbery.

NY rights group says 35 journalists jailed in Iran

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists says at least 35 journalists are in prison in Iran after a nearly yearlong crackdown on the news media in the Middle Eastern country. The organization said Tuesday that an additional 18 journalists were free on short-term furloughs granted for the Iranian New Year and were expected to report back to prison. They say many of the jailed journalists are under immense physical and psychological pressure to confess to crimes they have not committed, including crimes that carry the death penalty.

1 arrested in shooting amid Times Square mayhem

NEW YORK (AP)—Police arrested a man Tuesday on weapons charges in the shooting of two women during a sprawling brawl near Times Square that left two others wounded and police officers injured. Rayvon Guice, 20, was arrested Tuesday on charges of assault and criminal possession of a weapon. Two 19-year-old women were shot—one in the elbow and another in the thigh—near Seventh Avenue and 34th Street. Another man was hit in the ankle in an unrelated shooting and a woman and hit with a BB gun during the mayhem Sunday and Monday morning. Police were still investigating those incidents.

Crews begin drilling into W.Va. mine where 25 died

MONTCOAL, W.Va. (AP)—Rescuers held out slim hope Tuesday that four missing coal miners might have survived when a mine repeatedly cited for improperly venting methane gas exploded, killing 25 people in the country's deadliest underground disaster in a quarter-century.

A day after the blast in southern West Virginia, desperate rescuers began boring into the mine in hopes of releasing poisonous gases so crews could go in search of the men. But Gov. Joe Manchin said it could be Wednesday before much progress is made.

"I don't want to give anybody any false hope, but by golly, if I'm on that side of the table, and that's my father or my brother or my uncle or my cousins, I'm going to have hope," he said.

The missing miners might have been able to reach airtight chambers stocked with food, water and enough oxygen for four days. But rescue teams checked one of two chambers nearby, and it was empty. The buildup of gases prevented them from reaching the second chamber. Officials



West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, center, speaks to journalists about the 25 coal miners that died in a Monday evening explosion at Massey Energy Co.'s sprawling Upper Big Branch mine in Montcoal, W.Va. Tuesday, April 6, 2010.

said they were 90 percent sure of the miners' location.

On Tuesday, bulldozers carved an access road to make way for drilling crews, who planned to dig four shafts to vent methane, a highly combustible gas that accumulates naturally in coal mines, and

carbon monoxide from the blast site about 1,000 feet beneath the surface.

Crews began drilling two side-by-side holes that start at 12 inches in diameter and narrow to 6 inches. They hoped to open more holes later Tuesday evening. The digging could be

done by midday Wednesday.

Massey Energy Co., which owns the Upper Big Branch mine, was fined more than \$382,000 in the past year for repeated serious violations involving its ventilation plan and equipment.

The company's chief executive

Obama calls nuke terrorism the top threat to US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rewriting America's nuclear strategy, the White House on Tuesday announced a fundamental shift that calls the spread of atomic weapons to rogue states or terrorists a worse threat than the nuclear Armageddon feared during the Cold War.

The Obama administration is suddenly moving on multiple fronts with a goal of limiting the threat of a catastrophic international conflict, although it's not yet clear how far and how fast the rest of the world

is ready to follow.

In releasing the results of an in-depth nuclear strategy review, President Barack Obama said his administration would narrow the circumstances in which the U.S. might launch a nuclear strike, that it would forgo the development of new nuclear warheads and would seek even deeper reductions in American and Russian arsenals.

His defense secretary, Robert Gates, said the focus would now be on terror groups such as al-Qaida as well as North

Korea's nuclear buildup and Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"For the first time, preventing nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism is now at the top of America's nuclear agenda," Obama said, distancing his administration from the decades-long U.S. focus on arms competition with Russia and on the threat posed by nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert.

"The greatest threat to U.S. and global security is no longer a nuclear exchange between nations, but nuclear

terrorism by violent extremists and nuclear proliferation to an increasing number of states," he said, spelling out the core theme of the new strategy.

Obama's announcement set the stage for his trip to Prague Thursday to sign a new arms reduction agreement with Russia. And it precedes a gathering in Washington next Monday of government leaders from more than 40 countries to discuss improving safeguards against terrorists acquiring nuclear bombs.

Study: Riskier surgeries for back pain raise costs

CHICAGO (AP)—A study of Medicare patients shows that costlier, more complex spinal fusion surgeries are on the rise—and sometimes done unnecessarily—for a common lower back condition caused by aging and arthritis.

What's more alarming is that the findings suggest these more challenging operations are riskier, leading to more complications and even deaths.

"This is exactly what the health care debate has been dancing around," said Dr. Eugene Carragee of Stanford University Medical Center.

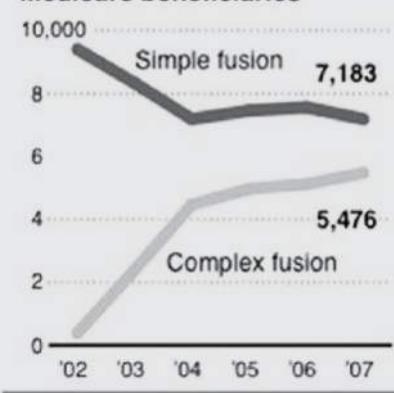
"You have one kind of operation that could cost \$20,000 and another that could cost \$80,000 and there's not good evidence the expensive one is being used appropriately in the majority of cases," Carragee said.

Add to that the expense for patients whose problems after surgery send them back to the hospital or to a nursing home and "that's not a trivial amount of money" for Medicare, said Carragee. He wrote an accompanying editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association where the federally funded study appears Wednesday.

Riskier surgeries for back pain rise

A study of Medicare patients shows that costly and complex surgeries are done more often for a common lower back condition caused by aging and arthritis.

Surgeries for lower back stenosis, 65 and older Medicare beneficiaries



The cost to Medicare, just for the hospital charges for the three types of back surgery reviewed is about \$1.65 billion a year, according to the researchers.

All the patients in the study had stenosis in their lower backs, a painful squeezing in the spine that's most common in people over 50. The researchers compared the risks for three different types of surgery for the condition: decompression, simple fusion and complex fusion.

"All operations aren't the same and some seem to be associated with higher complication rates than others," said lead author Dr. Richard Deyo of Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. "It's not necessarily true that the more aggressive surgery is better, at least in terms of safety."

There's little agreement about the best way to treat chronic lower back pain, and much depends on what's causing the pain.

Patients should ask their doctors about alternatives to complicated operations, Deyo said. Could steroid injections and physical therapy be tried? Would a simple decompression procedure be as helpful as a spinal fusion and with less risk?

said the mine was not unsafe, but federal regulators planned to review its many violations.

In an area where coal is king, people anxiously awaited word on the missing miners. One resident hung a "Praying 4 Our Miners" banner outside a home. At Libby's City Grill in nearby Whitesville, the accident was the talk at every breakfast table. Owner James Scott was grieving his own loss—his 58-year-old uncle, Deward Scott of Montcoal, was among the dead.

Neither his uncle nor his customers talked much about their work.

"I never heard anyone say anything about the mine, good or bad," James Scott said. "You just don't talk about it."

Diana Davis said her husband, Timmy Davis, 51, died in the explosion along with his nephews, Josh Napper, 27, and Cory Davis, 20.

The elder Davis' son, Timmy Davis Jr., described his father as passionate about the outdoors and the mines. "He loved to work underground," the younger Davis said. "He loved that place." Two other family members survived the blast, he said.

Priest accused of US abuse won't fight extradition

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest charged with sexually assaulting a teenage parishioner in Minnesota said Tuesday he would willingly leave his native India and try to clear his name in the courts if the United States tried to extradite him.

The Rev. Joseph Palanivel Jeyapaul, 55, has never faced the criminal charges in the United States. The bishop who oversees him has said that he overruled a Vatican recommendation that Jeyapaul be removed from the priesthood and applied his own lesser punishment instead.

"I am ready to go because I am innocent. I am ready to prove I did not do any wrong," said Jeyapaul, who works in the diocese's office handling paperwork for schools.

When that might happen was unclear. Lisa Hanson, the prosecutor in northern Minnesota' Roseau County, has refused to provide details of her efforts or explain why Jeyapaul hadn't yet been brought back. Department of Justice spokeswoman Laura Sweeney said the agency doesn't comment on extradition matters.

"We want justice for the victim here and we want to do whatever we can to protect potential future victims everywhere," Hanson said Monday.

Asia

Survivors of sunken SKorean ship describe ordeal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Survivors from a South Korean naval ship that sank after a mysterious explosion publicly recounted their ordeal for the first time Wednesday, describing how the deafening blast interrupted a routine patrol near the disputed border with North Korea.

Fifty-eight of the 104 sailors on board the 1,200-ton Cheonan were rescued soon after the accident. No other survivors have been found, but divers recovered the body of one crewman Saturday.

No cause for the disaster has been determined. South Korean officials have said they will examine all possibilities, including that the ship might have been hit by a floating mine or a torpedo from North Korea.

"I heard a loud boom, and felt my body being instantly lifted up in the air," Senior Chief Petty Officer Oh Seong-tak told a news conference. "The noise was so loud that my ears hurt."

Oh, who was in his bunk on the vessel's lowest level at the time of the blast, said he grabbed at everything around him to feel his way out, and then realized the door was at his feet. "The vessel tilted at a 90-degree angle immediately after the explosion," he said.

Sailors said the blast felt like it came from outside the ship, but did not comment on specu-



AP
Choi Won-il, captain of the sunken South Korean warship Cheonan reacts during a press conference at a military hospital in Seongnam, south of Seoul, Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

lation of possible North Korean involvement. The Cheonan sank in the Yellow Sea near the contested western sea border—a scene of three bloody inter-Ko-

rean naval battles since 1999. The sailors said there were no unusual signs before the explosion. They said there was no smell of gunpowder after the

blast, only oil.

Media speculation about the cause of the accident has been intense. The government, however, has urged calm and said the cause can only be determined after remains of the ship are salvaged and thoroughly examined.

All of the sailors who appeared at the news conference, held at a military hospital near Seoul, wore hospital gowns except for the captain, who appeared in uniform. Some wore back braces and some were in wheelchairs or on crutches.

The 45 missing sailors have not been declared dead. However, search operations were called off Saturday at the request of family members after a navy diver died.

Capt. Choi Won-il, who mostly sat with his eyes closed and lips pursed as his men spoke, said he hopes the missing are still alive and is waiting for the day they can return to duty.

"Please understand the situation as it is," Choi said, wiping away tears with his sleeve. "My men, who I feel are by my side, are deep in my heart."

Efforts to recover the ship began earlier this week. Last week, a South Korean fishing boat that participated in search operations disappeared. Two aboard that vessel died and seven others are missing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai protesters break into Parliament

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai TV has reported that anti-government protesters have broken into the Parliament building after lawmakers aborted their session, with some of the legislators scaling a wall to escape. Thai PBS reported that protesters pushed past riot police Wednesday to enter the Parliament grounds and that some have reached the second floor of the building. It was not immediately clear how many protesters were inside. The so-called Red Shirt protesters are calling on Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to dissolve Parliament and call fresh elections. They have staged protests in Bangkok since March 12 and shut down a commercial hub of the capital since Saturday.

5 workers killed in roof collapse in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police in the Philippines say five construction workers have been killed and six injured after the roof of a mall under construction collapsed. Police say part of a roof beam and a fire wall at the Gaisano Capital Mall in the country's second largest city of Cebu came down before dawn Wednesday with 27 workers inside. It is not clear what caused the collapse.

NKorea sentences US man to 8 years of hard labor

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it has sentenced an American man to eight years' hard labor and a fine equivalent to \$700,000 for entering the country illegally and unspecified hostile acts. Aijalon Mahli Gomes was fined 70 million won after acknowledging his wrongdoing during a court trial Tuesday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a brief dispatch. South Korea's Unification Ministry said the official exchange rate in North Korea is 100 North Korean won to one dollar, which means the fine would equal \$700,000.

7.7 quake strikes off Indonesia's Sumatra island

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A 7.7 earthquake shook Indonesia's northwest island of Sumatra early Wednesday, prompting a brief tsunami warning and sending residents rushing for higher ground. There were scattered reports of injuries, but only minor damage was immediately reported.

The quake struck at 5:15 a.m. (2215 GMT) and was centered 125 miles (205 kilometers) northwest of the coastal town of Sibolga in Sumatra at a depth of 19 miles (31 kilometers), the U.S. Geological Survey said. It had earlier said the quake measured 7.8.

Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu issued tsunami warnings following the quake, but lifted them two hours later.

Six people were hospitalized in Sinabang on Simeulue island with injuries sustained when their homes collapsed, a nurse at the local hospital said. One man was in critical condition.

Fauzi, a seismologist at the meteorology agency, said the quake would have "at least



caused cracks in many buildings and houses, especially in areas closest to the epicenter."

"That's why we are still trying to get data of damage in some remote areas that remain difficult to reach due to lack of communica-

tion and blackout," said Fauzi, who goes by only one name.

Local network Metro TV reported that a dormitory for nurses partially collapsed in Aceh's Singkil district and one woman suffered minor injuries in the rush to get out of the building.

At least five strong aftershocks measuring up to 5.2 were recorded, the meteorology agency said.

The quake, which struck as people in the region were preparing for morning prayers, caused panic in North Sumatra's capital of Medan, about 135 miles (215 kilometers) from the epicenter, and other cities in the region. Electricity was cut in Medan, Banda Aceh—the provincial capital of Aceh—and other areas.

People in several cities along the southeastern coast of Sumatra as well as Sinabang on Simeulue island and Gunung Sitoli on nearby Nias island poured into the streets and rushed to higher ground after the quake.

"Rumors about a tsunami panicked villagers living near the beach," said Eddy Efendi, a resident on Nias island.

Asian allies welcome new US nuclear stance

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. allies in Asia on Wednesday welcomed President Barack Obama's new policy aimed at reducing the likelihood of nuclear conflict, while powerhouse China was silent over his call for Beijing to better explain its nuclear intentions.

In a much-awaited announcement, Obama vowed Tuesday to reduce America's nuclear arsenal, refrain from nuclear tests and not use nuclear weapons against countries that do not have them. North Korea and Iran were not included in that pledge because they do not cooperate with other countries on nonproliferation standards.

Some U.S. allies, which benefit from being in the U.S. nuclear defense umbrella, were concerned they would be left vulnerable by a change in Washington's policy. But Obama's statement appeared to defuse many such concerns.

"This is a first step toward

a nuclear-free world," said Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama. "Deterrence is important, but so is reducing nuclear arsenals. We highly regard his stance."

Katsuya Okada, Japan's foreign minister, noted that Japan, which is located near North Korea, China and Russia but has refused to develop nuclear weapons of its own, was concerned about how the policy will affect its security.

"The United States had assured its allies that this position will not endanger them," he said. "This is important."

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key welcomed the announcement.

"President Obama made good on his pledge a year ago to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. security policies and set the world on a path to a nuclear-weapons-free world," he said in a statement.

CIA victim said to have rescued future Afghan pres

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The only prisoner known to have died in the CIA's network of secret prisons once rescued Hamid Karzai, wading through rocket and small-arms fire to take the wounded future president to safety in Pakistan, according to his brother and former associates.

The prisoner, Gul Rahman, died in the early hours of Nov. 20, 2002, after being shackled to a cold cement wall in a secret CIA prison in northern Kabul known as the Salt Pit, current and former U.S. officials familiar with the case confirmed.

His family is appealing to the International Red Cross to return his body.

Rahman was captured about three weeks before his death in a raid in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad against Hezb-e-Islami, an Afghan insurgent group led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, which was believed to have ties to al-Qaida. Rahman was arrested along with Hekmatyar's son-in-law, Dr. Ghairat Baheer.

Baheer, who was later released, was part of a

Hezb-e-Islami delegation that came to Kabul last month to talk peace with Karzai.

Rahman's brief association with the future Afghan president, reported by his brother Habib Rahman, adds an ironic twist to the account of his death at the hands of the CIA, and illustrates the complex history of the different Afghan factions still competing for power in this war-ravaged country.

After Soviet forces withdrew in 1989, Afghani-

stan descended into civil war as the Islamic groups that ousted the Soviets fought each other for control of the capital, Kabul.

During fighting in 1994, Karzai, then deputy foreign minister, was arrested by Afghan intelligence, by some accounts because he was in contact with Hekmatyar and other militia leaders to end the conflict.

Karzai himself has said little about his confinement except that he escaped when rockets struck the building where he was held and that he made his way to Pakistan.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen attack Mexican army housing, 2 troops hurt

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Suspected cartel gunmen wounded two soldiers in an unprecedented grenade attack on army housing in northern Mexico, the latest sign that drug gangs are increasingly turning to open warfare tactics against the military. The gunmen fired the grenade from a rifle at a camp where soldiers live with their families outside the Gulf coast city of Tampico, the Defense Department said in a statement Tuesday. The two wounded soldiers were treated, but none of their relatives was harmed in the attack Monday.

Venezuela arrests 8 alleged Colombian spies

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Tuesday that Venezuela has arrested eight Colombians as suspected spies and charged that several carried identification indicating they are members of neighboring Colombia's military. There was no immediate comment on the allegations from the government of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. Chavez said the suspects, who were detained more than a week ago, had computers and satellite telephones and were using cameras to take photographs of Venezuela's power plants.

Police probing origin of Sarkozy infidelity rumors

PARIS (AP)—Police are investigating who started rumors of infidelity involving President Nicolas Sarkozy and France's first lady that began on a blog and spread to newspapers overseas, the Paris prosecutor's office said Tuesday. Sarkozy's lawyer, Thierry Herzog, said in a radio interview Monday evening that he did not exclude the possibility the allegations of "totally unfounded liaisons" had been planted in a bid to take down the glamorous couple. The investigation was opened based on a complaint filed March 25 by the owner of a weekly newspaper whose blog carried the initial rumors that alleged that both the president and his wife, a former top model, were involved in relationships outside their marriage.

Vatican blasts anti-Catholic 'hate' campaign

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican heatedly defended Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday, claiming accusations that he helped cover up the actions of pedophile priests are part of an anti-Catholic "hate" campaign targeting the pope for his opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage.

Vatican Radio broadcast comments by two senior cardinals explaining "the motive for these attacks" on the pope and the Vatican newspaper chipped in with spirited comments from another top cardinal.

"The pope defends life and the family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, in a world in which powerful lobbies would like to impose a completely different" agenda, Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, head of the disciplinary commission for Holy See officials, said on the radio.

Herranz didn't identify the lobbies but "defense of life" is Vatican shorthand for anti-abortion efforts.

Also arguing that Benedict's promotion of conservative family models had provoked the so-called attacks was the Vatican's dean of the College of Cardinals, Angelo Sodano.

"By now, it's a cultural contrast," Sodano told the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Ro-



In this photo provided by L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI addresses the faithful during the "Urbi et Orbi" (To the city and the World) message, at the end of the Easter Mass in St. Peter's square, at the Vatican, Sunday, April 4, 2010.

mano. "The pope embodies moral truths that aren't accepted, and so, the shortcomings and errors of priests are used as weapons against the church."

Also rallying to Benedict's side was Italian Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, who heads the Vatican City State's governing apparatus.

The pope "has done all that he could have" against sex abuse by clergy of minors, Lajolo said on Vatican radio, decrying what he described as a campaign of "hated against the Catholic church."

Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, a Minneapolis, Minnesota-based minister in the United Church of Christ who is faith work director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, described the cardinals' comments as "divisive counterattacks" that are an affront both to the victims of clergy abuse and to gays and lesbians.

"It makes me heartsick," she said.

Sex abuse allegations, as well as accusations of cover-ups by diocesan bishops and Vatican officials, have swept across Europe in recent weeks. Benedict has been criticized for not halting the actions of abusive priests when he was a Vatican cardinal and earlier while he was the archbishop of Munich in his native Germany.

The mainland European scan-

dals—in Germany, Italy, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland—are erupting after decades of abuse cases in the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland and other areas.

In Germany, nearly 2,700 people called the church's sexual abuse hot line in the first three days it was operating, a Catholic church spokesman said Tuesday. A team of psychologists and other experts have spoken with 394 people so far, ranging from several minutes up to an hour, Trier Diocese spokesman Stephan Kronenbue said.

"Most callers reported cases of sexual abuse," he told The Associated Press.

Benedict has ignored victims' demands that he accept responsibility for what they say is his own personal and institutional responsibility for failing to swiftly kick abusive priests out of the priesthood, or at least keep them away from children.

But he has been protected by a vanguard of senior Vatican prelates who are fending off what they contend is an orchestrated attempt to attack the leader of the world's more than 1 billion Catholics.

The Vatican No. 2 official, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, rebuffed questions about the pontiff's silence on the topic, indicating that Benedict was standing firm.

Dutch sidestep EU red tape to rescue German freighter

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Gaining fast on the pirates who had seized a German freighter, Dutch naval captain Col. Hans Lodder had no time to waste on bureaucracy.

Sidestepping the command of the European Union's anti-piracy task force, he went instead to his own government for authorization to recapture the ship by force.

Lodder first ascertained that the freighter's crew had locked themselves in a bulletproof room. Then he launched his ship's Lynx helicopter with a team of six special forces marines.

With troops providing cover fire from the helicopter, the marines rappelled onto the ship's deck of the MV Taipan to shoot it out, if need be, with the pirates. But they met no resistance. The 15-man crew was rescued, and 10 Somali pirates were captured.

"The pirates surrendered the moment they saw the marines," Lodder said in a telephone interview Tuesday from the Dutch frigate Tromp. No one was injured.

Monday's successful rescue showed that, when swift decisions are needed, it can be quicker to work around the European Union's command.

50 dead as Baghdad bombings stoke fears of warfare

BAGHDAD (AP)—Bombs ripped through apartment buildings and a market in mostly Shiite areas of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing 50 people in post-election bloodshed that threatens to rekindle sectarian warfare that nearly destroyed the country three years ago.

The attacks appeared to be an attempt by al-Qaida in Iraq or other extremists to exploit a power vacuum during what promises to be lengthy negotiations to form a new government. About 120 people have been killed in and around the capital over the past five days—some of the most brutal strikes on civilians in months.

For two terrifying hours on a warm, sunny Tuesday morning, at least seven bombs rocked a broad swath of Baghdad. In a new tactic, several bombs were planted inside empty apartments

Violence in Baghdad

Attacks in Baghdad have claimed more than 100 lives since Friday.

April 2 Gunmen kill villagers execution-style in Sunni area south of Baghdad

24 killed

April 4 Three car bombs near embassies in Baghdad

More than 40 killed

15 killed

April 5 Shiite couple and four of their children gunned down in their home outside Baghdad

6 killed

April 6 Bombs destroy buildings in three areas of Baghdad

At least 49 killed

NOTE: April 6 figures as of 9:30 a.m. ET

Sources: AP, ESRI

after renters offered high prices for the properties, the government said.

The explosions reduced one building to rubble, knocked out windows and doors and ripped off facades. People rushed to the blast sites, digging through the rubble with their hands to find loved ones.

"Cars began to collide with one another in the street," said Ali Hussein, a 22-year-old college student who was riding the bus to school when one of the bombs went off. "We saw a cloud of fire and black smoke." With militants singling out entire families of both Muslim sects for slaughter, the recent violence is reminiscent of the far more widespread fighting that tore Iraq apart from 2005 to 2007 and prompted the United States to send tens of thousands more troops to this country.

U.S. officials sought to downplay the possibility that Iraq is sliding toward major sectarian fighting and insisted there were no plans to slow the withdrawal of American troops.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said that Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. military official in Iraq, does not believe the violence threatens the ability of the U.S. military to draw down its forces this year.

The U.S. military plans to reduce troop levels from 90,000 to 50,000 by Aug. 31, when it will end combat operations. As part of an agreement with Iraq, the U.S. will withdraw all forces by the end of 2011.

"We're obviously concerned but we don't see the parallels with what happened a few years ago," U.S. Embassy spokesman Philip Frayne said. "We don't see a sectarian war breaking out again."

Rain resumes in Rio and officials fear more deaths

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Rains began pelting Rio again early Wednesday, hours after the heaviest deluge on record sent killer mudslides cascading down hillsides and turned streets into raging torrents in Brazil's second-biggest city.

Authorities feared the added water could dislodge more saturated ground and raise the death toll from 95 in Rio and the neighboring city of Niteroi. Most of

the deaths came when landslides smashed over shacks in slums built precariously on steep slopes.

Huge red-brown paths of destruction slashed through shantytowns. Concrete and wooden homes were crushed and hurtled downhill, only to bury other structures.

Rio, which will host the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, ground to a near halt as Mayor

Eduardo Paes urged workers to stay home and ordered all schools closed. Most businesses were shuttered.

Streets across the city were quiet as flooded roadways made travel nearly impossible even before rain started falling again before dawn.

Eleven inches (28 centimeters) of rain drenched Rio in less than 24 hours Tuesday, and the forecast called for more rain

through the weekend, though it was expected to lessen.

Officials said potential mudslides threatened at least 10,000 homes in the city of 6 million people. Some 1,200 people were left homeless by Tuesday's downpour.

Paes urged people in endangered areas to take refuge with family or friends and he said no one should venture out.

Focus

It's win-win for elderly tutors, grade-school kids

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER



In this March 25, 2010 photo, Experience Corps tutor Elizabeth Dorsey helps a student at Belmont Elementary in Baltimore. Experience Corps operates in 22 cities nationwide and trains volunteers over 55 to tutor and mentor elementary school students.

'This tutoring gets people engaged in doing what the brain is supposed to do; the brain is a social organ. The message to them is to take all their accumulated wisdom of a lifetime and give it back to help other people.'

sidelined by a heart attack and deeply depressed at what might lie ahead.

Now, she feels better than she has in years, mentally and physically.

"This has saved my life—I'm not going to lie to you," she said, her voice briefly breaking with emotion. "Some of the children are a challenge,

but it has been a great help to me."

She is no pushover. Some of the pupils call her "sarge," and she preaches the need for self-respect and responsibility.

"They need that," she said. "They feel that they can do whatever they want to do, and there's no repercussions."

The Baltimore tutors generally work 15 hours a week, receiving an annual stipend of about \$2,800 that helps cover transportation costs, school lunches and occasional treats for the kids.

At Belmont Elementary, where virtually all the 300-plus students are black, Experience Corps has provided a team leader and 14 tutors. One is assigned to every kindergarten through third grade class, plus Broady who tutors fourth graders.

In the classrooms, the tutors generally work with one or two students at a time, giving them extra practice on math or reading. If a child is acting up, the tutor can take him or her aside for a quiet discussion while the regular teacher proceeds uninterrupted with the other pupils.

"You can imagine the difference having 15 extra mature adults around the school," said Sylvia McGill, director of Experience Corps' Baltimore operation. "The principals tell us it's a more teachable, calmer environment, and a lot of young, first-year teachers say they wouldn't have made it without their volunteer."

One of those rookie teachers, Jennifer Ries, was getting help from Elizabeth Dorsey—a patient, soft-spoken tutor—in a bright-colored classroom filled with 17 third-graders.

"The kids love her," said Ries, 22. "They like having another adult around."

Later, with neither teacher nor tutor in earshot, 8-year-old Kayla Smith confirmed that assessment about Dorsey.

"She helps us with things," said Kayla. "We only have to raise our hand—she'll come over and explain it to us. She's real nice."

Dorsey, 67, retired five years ago after a career as a civil servant in nearby Howard County and was looking for something to do. She had taught adult literature classes before, but when it came to engaging with children, "I always stayed away."

And now, after experiencing the Experience Corps?

"I do like them," she said, sounding almost surprised. "It's amazing. Even the ones who you think you're not getting close to, all of a sudden one day they'll jump up and give you a hug."

It's not always jovial. One of the day's lessons entailed discussion of which is more important, family or money.

"One boy asked me: 'Suppose your family is a mean family?'" Dorsey recounted. "I could tell he was talking about his own family. That was a little sad moment."

Barbara Johnson, who tutors in a kindergarten class, observes children coming to school who, in behavior and appearance, appear to be neglected.

"They need some mentoring, some TLC," said Johnson, 70, who moved to Baltimore after a career with the postal service in upstate New York.

"It's the quality of the time that you give them—the tone of voice," she said. "Children can tell when you really care."

Another Belmont volunteer, Carolyn Scott-Harris, retired in 2008 after 28 years as a corrections officer at the Baltimore city jail. Even in some of the first-graders she tutors, she notices the impact of growing up in a tough environment.

"All the girls are pretty sweet. ... but some of the boys are so out of line, so wild," said Scott-Harris, 64. "Most of them are very smart, all of them are a little streetwise, some are overly streetwise."

Nationally, Experience Corps spends about \$23 million on its operations, according to its CEO, Lester Strong. It relies on a mix of financial sources—including federal money from AmeriCorps, private donations and payments from the school districts it serves.

In Baltimore, principals who want the tutors are asked to contribute \$20,000 from their own school budgets, which covers about a quarter of the program cost.

Strong hopes the overall budget will grow so the program can multiply in size while maintaining high standards.

"The program is a triple win—for our tutors, for our children and for the schools," he said. "Everyone benefits."

Environment

Damage to Great Barrier Reef after shipping accident

By JENNIFER ROSE BENNETT
AND JOHN M. GLIONNA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SYDNEY—Over the years, retired fishing Capt. Mike Prior has seen their numbers grow, the large trawlers and freighters cruising recklessly through federally protected waters without proper guidance.

On Tuesday, authorities were investigating the shipwreck of one such apparent vessel—a Chinese-flagged bulk coal carrier that slammed into the Great Barrier Reef, skippered by a captain who allegedly ignored the fact he was outside the shipping lanes without a trained marine pilot because he was trying to make time.

In the darkness before midnight Saturday, the *Shen Neng 1* slammed into Douglas Shoals, several miles from shipping lanes and off-limits for cargo vessels.

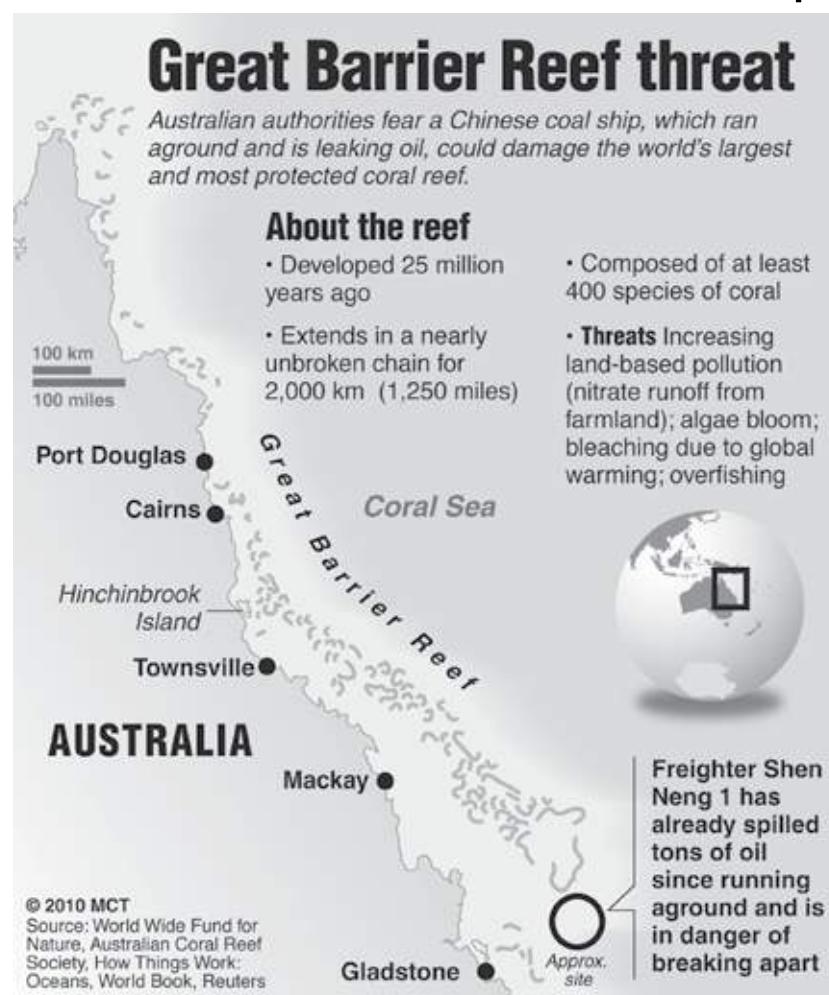
Biologists on Tuesday assessed the reef, which stretches 1,200 miles and is considered an endangered habitat.

"We have observed damage ... from the grounding incident itself, as evidenced by the plume of coral sediment that can be seen around the ship," said Russell Reichelt, chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. "Fortunately, there have been no reports of continuing oil loss, and the quantity spilled to date does not pose a significant threat to marine life."

A 2-mile-long oil slick, 100 yards wide, has leaked from the ship. Authorities continued to work to steady the vessel to keep it from breaking in two, spilling 65,000 tons of coal and 300,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil.

The Australian government does not require trained marine pilots to assist ships in avoiding hazards such as the reef, arguing that most large ships are banned from the area.

Between 1987 and 1995, more than 600 shipping accidents occurred



in the area around the reef, including "groundings, collisions, sinkings and minor oil-spill pollution events," according to a study by the marine park authority. Groundings accounted for 45% of shipping accidents. There were also 230 reported oil spills, the report said.

The harbormaster of Gladstone Harbor, where the *Shen Neng 1* had been docked prior to departure, said Tuesday that he doubted the freighter embarked on any illegal shortcuts through the reef before running aground. Capt. Mike Lutze said the ship was taking a "recognized route" through the reef. About 3,000 ships

a year leave Gladstone carrying coal and other commodities to Asia.

"It's a natural deep-water passage through the reef," he said. "You don't have to be Rhodes scholar to navigate through there. It's well marked on the chart, it's well known that it's there, and there have been no issues with thousands of ships passing through that area."

Australian Prime Minister Kevin

DO YOUR PART

You and storm water: A major source of pollution

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

How would you feel if you knew that you and your neighbors are the biggest source of water pollution in the U.S.? Well, it's true. It's generally not intentional on our part but each day we all do things that add up to one big problem. Do Your Part to protect our water by preventing storm water runoff pollution.

Storm water runoff is just what it sounds like: water from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, streets and parking lots prevent storm water from being absorbed into the ground, contributing to the flow of runoff. Storm water flows downhill to the nearest storm drain. What most people don't understand is that anything that enters a storm drain flows untreated into a nearby creek, river or lake. These rivers and lakes are the source of drinking water to 85 percent of Americans and a valued resource for swimming, boating or fishing for all of us.

Our lifestyles contribute to many sources of pollution that end up in storm water runoff.

Litter is one way we pollute our water. Yes, it's unsightly but it can also harm or kill aquatic life such as fish, turtles, ducks and birds. All of these

Rudd, however, flew over the accident site Tuesday and told reporters later that, "from where I see it, it is outrageous that any vessel could find itself (seven miles) off course, it seems, in the Great Barrier Reef."

"We've always said the vessel is up in an area it shouldn't be in the first place," said Patrick Quirk, the general manager of Marine Safety Queensland office. "How it got to that position will be the subject of a detailed investigation."

A Chinese news service offered details on the first moments after the shipwreck, reporting that Chinese officials immediately contacted the vessel's captain, Wang Changji.

Wang told Ren Gongping, the Chinese consul-general in Brisbane, Australia, that the ship had struck the reef and acknowledged that there was oil leaking, the New China news agency said.

Wang said repairs were under way and that the crew had sufficient food and water to last days. "If the broken parts can be repaired fast, the crew won't have to leave the ship," the agency reported Wang as saying.

Shenzhen Energy, the ship's owner and a subsidiary of COSCO Oceania Pty. Ltd.—China's largest shipping operator—could face \$920,000 in fines.

Prior, retired after 30 years running fishing trawlers and ferries, said the number of large vessels in the area have increased considerably, and they probably all should have pilots—but there are not enough people trained to do the job.

"The technology's there, but I suspect that there's (not enough manpower) to keep up round-the-clock surveillance of the vessels," he said.

Deadline extended for Coral Reef Summer Internships

The deadline for the Coral Reef Summer Internship has been extended for one more week. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply.

Are you looking for a summer job? Would you like to gain some experience in the environmental field? We are looking for 10-12 college students, or college bound high school graduates with an interest in learning more about coral reef resource management. Past internships have included: Marine Monitoring, Geographic Information Systems, Community Education and Outreach, Fisheries, Enforcement, Non Point Source Pollution. Our summer interns typically work about 20 hours a week between June and August and are paid \$7.00 per hour. To be considered, please submit the following documents:

- CNMI Employment Application
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Copy of photo identification
- Transcripts
- Cover letter
- Police Clearance

The deadline to submit your application materials is April 12, 2010. For more information call 664-8300.

Materials can be e-mailed to brooke.nevitt@crm.gov.mp or mailed or faxed to:

Coastal Resources Management Office

Attn: Brooke Nevitt
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax (670) 664-8315

backed up sewer pipes by not pouring grease down the drain when you cook. This can clog pipes leading to backed up sewage that can spill into our waterways or worse yet, your home. And pick up after your pets. When you consider the fact that there are more than 150 million pet dogs and cats in this country, you soon realize that adds up to a lot of poop that can find its way into storm drains.

Hazardous waste does not belong in our water. Items like used motor oil, insecticides, pesticides, oil-based paints and chemical solvents should never be poured down a storm drain. Use the Zip code search feature at Earth911.com to find out where you can dispose of these items properly.

Lastly, as temperatures rise, many of us will head to the lake or other waterway for fun. Be sure to keep your boating experience an eco-friendly one by collecting your trash and preventing spills as you refill the gas and oil.

Less than 1 percent of the planet's water is available for us to drink. Do Your Part to keep it clean.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more every day green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com.

Free movies to celebrate Earth Day

At American Memorial Park Theater in April

The Lorax

A family film based on the book by Dr. Seuss

Dates: April 19 and April 22

Time: 3pm (30 minutes)

The Lorax, one of the earliest environmentalists in children's literature, attempts to save trees from destruction by the Once-ler. Watch the Lorax fight for his cause in this animated feature, which also includes "Pontoffel Pock and His Magic Piano," about a piano-playing sprite who travels through space and time in a blink.

HOME

Dates: April 20 and 21

Time: 3pm (120 minutes)

Award-winning photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand directs this breathtaking ode to planet Earth, an aerial voyage that captures the interdependence of the world's ecosystems—and the bruises left behind by human indifference. From the agricultural revolution to our ever-increasing reliance on oil, narrator Glenn Close examines the changes

For more information, call Lisa Eller/Division of Environmental Quality/664-8500. (PR)



Our lifestyles contribute to many sources of pollution that end up in storm water runoff.

creatures contribute to maintaining a healthy eco-system.

Excess nutrients are a major source of contamination. When we use too much fertilizer on our lawn and garden or apply it right before a heavy rain, the excess is picked up by storm water runoff and dumped into our waterways. The over-load of nutrients causes algae to bloom. These so called 'algae blooms' remove needed oxygen from the water, choking the life from vital water creatures that help maintain the quality of that waterway.

Bacteria are another problem that could come from a backed up sewage pipe or even from pet waste. You can prevent

Life & Style

OJ Simpson acquittal suit goes to Newseum in DC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The tan Armani suit, white shirt and gold tie that O.J. Simpson wore on the day he was acquitted of murder have been acquired by the Newseum in Washington, D.C., for a display exhibit on the “trial of the century”, the curator of the museum of news

said Tuesday.

“For us, it’s a piece of news history that we will include in our collection of objects relating to the trial,” said Carrie Christofferson, the curator who was involved in negotiations to obtain the suit.

Mike Gilbert, Simpson’s for-

mer manager who has had possession of it, said he will fly to Washington and hand deliver the ensemble to the Newseum next week.

“I hope it will be displayed in a way that will help people ponder the legal system and celebrity,” said Gilbert. “I’m happy that it

will go somewhere where people can see it and remember where they were that day in history.”

The acquisition ends a 13-year legal battle between Gilbert and Fred Goldman, the father of the man Simpson was charged with killing in 1994.

Both men claimed the right to the clothing Simpson was wearing Oct. 3, 1995, when he was acquitted of killing ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, after a televised trial that riveted the nation. The acquittal was viewed by millions on live TV.

Gilbert came up with the idea of a donation to a museum. He has kept the suit, shirt and tie in storage since shortly after Simpson’s acquittal.

The suit was first offered to the Smithsonian Institution, but the museum said it was not appropriate for its collection. Gilbert said the Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington also had been trying to acquire the suit, but the parties decided the appropriate venue was the Newseum.

Christofferson said it will be shown along with a collection of newspaper headlines, press passes, reporters’ notebooks and equipment used to televise the



AP

In this Oct. 3, 1995 file photo, O.J. Simpson, center, reacts as he is found not guilty of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman, as members of his defense team, F. Lee Bailey, left, and Johnnie Cochran Jr., right, look on, in Los Angeles.

notorious trial.

“It will help us tell the story of this massive trial of the last century,” she said.

Goldman’s attorney, David Cook, said he was pleased with the resolution in which no one will profit from the suit.

“People will ask me what Fred Goldman gets from this,” Cook said. “It’s not money, it’s not vengeance. It’s the enshrinement of the painfully

inexplicable.

“It does further Fred Goldman’s goals because it keeps the story in front of America and, to that degree, it’s a success, as much as one can find any success in this terrible story,” Cook said.

Simpson attorney Ronald P. Slates said the former football star and actor, who is in prison in Nevada, was kept informed and agreed to the donation.

Madonna lays brick for new African girls’ academy

LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna laid the first brick of her new girls’ academy near Malawi’s capital Tuesday, in which she encouraged Malawian girls to “dare to dream,” according to the inscription on the brick.

The pop star said it has long been her dream to build a girls’ school. She said she hopes the girls attending the academy will go on to become doctors, lawyers and future leaders of their country.

The \$15 million Raising Malawi Academy for Girls is scheduled to open in 2011, and will assist 500 orphaned children.

At the same event, Madonna also launched a telecommunications and fundraising initiative that aims to provide education to children around the world by offering secondary school scholarships and by supporting schools in developing countries in accessing the internet.

“Kids will be able to connect with kids from the other parts of the world,” the singer said. “This will promote peace throughout the world.”



AP
U.S. pop star Madonna loads her trowel with cement prior to laying a symbolic brick at the commencement of the construction of her US \$15m Raising Malawi Academy for Girls near Lilongwe Tuesday April 6, 2010.

Telecommunications giant Ericsson will donate computers to various schools in 11 African countries through the United Nations Millennium Village initiative, where model villages are established to demonstrate how the quality of life in African rural areas can be improved through community-led development.

Daughters Lourdes and Mercy accompanied Madonna to Tuesday’s ceremony.

The pop diva looked relaxed as she used a trowel to turn the earth. She wore a long-sleeved striped top, white cotton slacks, a patterned scarf and pale ballet flats. She also wore a black-banded straw hat and dark sunglasses on the sunny day.

AG says Haim obtained 550 pills before death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Corey Haim employed “doctor shopping” to obtain 553 prescription pills in the two months before his death, California Attorney General Jerry Brown said Tuesday.

Haim obtained the meds, which included Valium, Vicodin, Xanax and Soma, through seven different doctors and seven pharmacies, Brown said, and he used an alias on at least one occasion.



Haim

through doctor-shopping.

“We think it illustrates a problem that is more widespread,” Brown said. His office has pursued more than 200 cases statewide involving prescription abuse by both doctors and patients.

Haim’s activities described by Brown Tuesday are separate from a fraudulently-obtained prescription Haim may have obtained. That prescription for the painkiller Oxycontin was found during an investigation into a ring that illegally obtained prescription pads and used the stolen identities of doctors to fill them out.

drugs throughout his life. He was also suffering from flu-like symptoms before his death and his official cause of death has not been released.

Coroner’s officials have said they found four prescriptions in Haim’s name in the apartment where he collapsed, and all were prescribed by a doctor treating the actor.

Mark Heaslip, the actor’s agent, did not return a phone message seeking comment Tuesday.

Brown, who is running for governor of California, said the doctors who prescribed medications to Haim told investigators they felt duped. He said Haim was able to get the medications by complaining of specific symptoms, such as shoulder pain and that the actor also used emergency rooms and urgent care facilities to obtain the drugs.

He said investigators were able to find the medications obtained by Haim through a state database called CURES, which monitors prescriptions. The database is available to doctors and pharmacies, Brown said, but its use is voluntary.

The pills Brown said Haim obtained in the two months before his death included 149 tablets of the painkiller Vicodin and 194 tablets of the muscle relaxant Soma. He also received 15 tablets of Xanax and 195 tablets of Valium, both of which are depressants, Brown said.

Haim, 38, died March 10 after collapsing in his mother’s apartment. Haim struggled with

Death Announcement

The El SHADDAI DWXJ PPFI
Saipan/Tinian Chapter
announces the untimely death of our beloved

REQUEZA “SIS QUEZ” R. NARCISO
Born: October 18, 1947
Died: April 4, 2010

Nightly rosary being said at El Shaddai office
located at Texas Road, Susupe
(behind Els Auto Shop) at 8:00pm.



Buzz off: Another star leaves 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, but he won't be spending any more time on the dance floor.

The 80-year-old astronaut was eliminated Tuesday from "Dancing With the Stars."

Aldrin and his professional partner, Ashly Costa, consistently finished in last place during the ABC show's three weeks of competition. He earned just 13 points out of 30 for his waltz on Monday's episode.

Still, Costa told him "I'm proud of you" after the couple learned their fate.

Aldrin said he surprised himself by appearing on the hit ABC show.

In this publicity image released by ABC, Buzz Aldrin, right, and his partner Ashly Costa perform on "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, April 5, 2010 in Los Angeles.

Jon Gosselin: Kate ignores kids to be on 'Dancing'

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jon Gosselin plans to sue ex-wife Kate for primary custody of their eight children because her appearances on "Dancing With the Stars" have turned her into an absentee mom, a lawyer for the former reality show dad told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Jon Gosselin's new lawyer, Anthony List, said he plans to file papers in Berks County Court in Pennsylvania this week to reopen their divorce settlement.

List said that Kate Gosselin's participation in the smash ABC dance competition show has taken her away from the children, and that she has delegated most child-rearing responsibilities to three nannies.

"Without a doubt, she's an absentee parent," he said.

Kate Gosselin's attorney, Mark Momjian, called the allegation reckless and "patently false."

"It's deplorable to make a comment like that," he said. "I know Kate Gosselin is all about her children, and she's always been about her children. Let him file what he says he's going to file and we'll respond accordingly."

The two formerly starred on the hit TLC reality show "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which chronicled the lives of the Gosselins and their large brood—twins and sextuplets—at their home in eastern Pennsylvania. The show ended its run in November, and their divorce became final in December.

The no-fault divorce settlement gave Kate Gosselin primary custody of the children and the family home in Wernersville, Pa., about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

List said Kate Gosselin has been pursuing her career at the expense of the children.

"If she's truly committed and dedicated to these children, as I believe she is, then she

should open her eyes and see what's happening to these children," List said. "Their life is topsy-turvy. Jon can give them stability."

He said Jon Gosselin also wants a modification of his \$21,000-per-month child support obligation, an amount List called "horrific" given Kate's earning capacity.



In this image released by ABC, Kate Gosselin, left, and her partner Tony Dovolani perform on "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, March 29, 2010 in Los Angeles.

"Dancing With the Stars" was America's most-watched show last week, outdrawing both editions of Fox's "American Idol" for the first time. Kate Gosselin also has a new book out this month, "I Just Want You to Know."

Jon Gosselin's pending court petition was first reported by the celebrity gossip site TMZ.com.

"I never thought I'd walk on the moon, but I certainly never thought I'd dance on TV," he said on Tuesday's episode.

Host Tom Bergeron told Aldrin that he remembers watching the moon mission on TV as a kid and that he was honored to work with the legendary astronaut.

Aldrin said he joined the "Dancing" cast to inspire interest in the space program and to honor veterans and "elder geezers." "I did this show for the fighter pilots out there, the military people

and the elder geezers like me who would just like to see an elder come back week after week," Aldrin said. "I'm interested also in having the public be thankful for the great successes we had in the Apollo program and look forward to even greater successes in the future."

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is eliminated each week.

Tuesday's episode also featured a performance by Reba McEntire, who said her "Danc-

'Dancing' twirls past 'Idol' for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time in the history of the two long-running competitions, ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" outdrew both editions of Fox's "American Idol" last week.

Meanwhile, the broadcast networks faced ratings disaster on April Fools' Day that was no joke.

The Nielsen Co. said Tuesday that nearly 23 million people watched "Dancing" a week ago. An estimated 21.8 million people watched "Idol" on Tuesday and 20.5 million on Wednesday, Nielsen said.

"I chalk it up to the Gosselin effect," said Don Seaman, a communications analyst for MPG America. Reality TV star Kate Gosselin is in the "Dancing With the Stars" cast this season.

The ABC show has a particularly strong cast, including former "Baywatch" babe Pamela Anderson, astronaut Buzz

Aldrin and Olympic gold medal figure skater Evan Lysacek. Producers have reduced the number of contestants this season, and that should enable fans to get to know them better, Seaman said.

In the meantime, it's shaping

up as a weak season for competitors on "American Idol," Seaman said.

After many years during which "American Idol" appeared relatively immune to aging, it may be catching up—and the timing isn't good, with judge Simon Cowell in his final season.

Fox noted that "American Idol" had a comfortable lead last week over its ABC rival among the 18-to 49-year-old demographic, the audience Fox cares about almost to the exclusion of anything else.

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NOW SHOWING



Clash Of The Titans 2D

Fri through Sun 1:25 4:25 7:20 9:45
 Monday 1:25 4:25 7:20
 Tue through Thurs 4:25 7:20

Sam Worthington
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The 1981 mythological fantasy adventure Clash of the Titans is resurrected in this remake from Incredible Hulk director Louis Leterrier and veteran writer Lawrence Kasdan. The joint Legendary Films/Warner Bros. production focuses on Perseus (Sam Worthington), the mortal hero made to carry out a series of quests by the gods in order to win the hand of the imprisoned princess Andromeda.



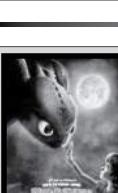
Why Did I Get Married Too?

Fri through Sun 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40
 Monday 1:05 4:20 7:05
 Tue through Thurs 4:20 7:05

Janet Jackson, Tyler Perry
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Gathered together in the Bahamas for their annual one-week reunion, four close couples eagerly reconnect, sharing news about their lives and relationships. But their intimate week in paradise is disrupted by the unexpected arrival of Sheila's ex-husband, Mike, who hopes to break up her new marriage with Troy and win her back.



How To Train Your Dragon

Fri through Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Tue through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Gerald Butler, America Ferrera
 Children, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The son of a Viking chief must capture a dragon in order to mark his passage into manhood and prove his worthiness to the tribe in directors Lorna Cook and David Soren's adaptation of Cressida Cowell's popular children's book. Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Jonah Hill, Jay Baruchel, and Christopher Mintz-Plasse provide the voices for the DreamWorks Animation production.



Hot Tub Time Machine

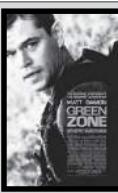
Fri through Sun 1:30 4:05 7:10 9:55
 Monday 1:30 4:05 7:10
 Tue through Thurs 4:05 7:10

John Cusack, Robert Corddry
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Fri through Sun 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
 Monday 1:20 4:10 7:30
 Tue through Thurs 4:10 7:30

Zachary Gordon, Steven Zahn
 Children's, Family • Rated PG



The Green Zone

Fri through Sun 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:50
 Monday 1:10 4:30 7:25
 Tue through Thurs 4:30 7:25

Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
 Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Fri through Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Tue through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
 Fantasy • Rated PG

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Oprah Winfrey snags Rielle Hunter interview



In this Aug. 6, 2009 file photo, Rielle Hunter holds her child as she is escorted from the Terry Sanford Federal Building and Courthouse in Raleigh, N.C. AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Woman sentenced to 7 years for auctioning fake art

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman who sold \$20 million in phony artwork she claimed was by Picasso, Dali and Chagall to thousands of people through a semiweekly televised auction has been sentenced to seven years in federal prison, prosecutors said Tuesday. Kristine Eubanks, 52, of La Canada Flintridge pleaded guilty in 2007 to conspiracy and tax evasion and was sentenced Monday. She and her husband, Gerald Sullivan, conducted an art auction show twice a week on DirecTV and The Dish Network from 2002 to 2006. The couple ran Fine Art Treasures Gallery, which sold fake and forged lithographs, prints and paintings purportedly found at estate liquidations around the world to more than 10,000 victims, U.S. attorney's spokesman Thom Mrozek said. They bought the paintings from suppliers and sometimes signed the forgeries and prints with the artists' names, prosecutors said.

KC and Sunshine Band member pleads in Ohio case

NEWARK, Ohio (AP)—A music producer and member of KC and the Sunshine Band has pleaded not guilty in Ohio to charges he had sexual contact with teenage boys. Richard R. Finch appeared in Licking County Common Pleas Court on Tuesday. He was arrested last month and faced 16 charges relating to sexual conduct with teen boys. Magistrate Mattie Klein doubled Finch's bond to \$500,000, and ordered him not to have contact with the alleged victims or anyone under 18 years old. Michael Connick, Finch's lawyer, had asked that bond be reduced. Finch is a former bass player for the band and a seven-time Grammy Award winner. He is being held in the Licking County Jail.

Sean Connery-hosted runway is mad for plaid

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Connery celebrated Scotland's eclectic style with a fashion show featuring celebrities, athletes and wounded war veterans in modernized kilts, capes and beanies from that country's top designers. Connery said Monday's Dressed to Kilt, marking its seventh year, "certainly brings together a very interesting mix of people." Mike Myers, in a kilt, argyle socks and sneakers, was first on the catwalk at the Chelsea nightclub space, appearing sandwiched between bagpipers from the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Al Roker was close behind in a longer kilt, paired with bright yellow socks. Joan Jett was a crowd-pleaser in her door-knocker bra top, patent-leather trench coat, micro-mini kilt and an outrageous feather headpiece by William Chambers, and Kelly Bensimon and Kellie Pickler each wore tiny corset dresses.

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has landed the first televised interview with Rielle (ree-EHL') Hunter since former presidential candidate John Edwards first admitted two years ago that he had an affair with Hunter.

Harpo Productions said Tuesday that Hunter will appear on The Oprah Winfrey Show on an unspecified date.

GQ magazine last month published the first interview with Hunter in which she ad-

dressed the scandal. She told the magazine the affair ended in July 2008 and that the relationship is now something "different." She didn't say whether they are still romantically involved but said Edwards wants to be there for their 2-year-old daughter.

Edwards admitted in January that he is the girl's father after initially denying it. He and his wife, Elizabeth Edwards, are now separated.

Katie Stevens, Michael Lynche blossom on 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalists Michael Lynche and Katie Stevens don't need any help from their friends.

The 26-year-old personal trainer from Astoria, N.Y., and 17-year-old high school student from Middlebury, Conn., were in bloom Tuesday with their interpretations of tunes from the songbook of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Lynche impressed on the Fox singing competition with a soulful "Eleanor Rigby," while Stevens wowed with a confident "Let It Be."

"There is no way you'll be in the bottom three," Ellen DeGeneres told Stevens.

Garnering the most attention, however, was not the contestants, judges or host Ryan Seacrest but a bagpipe player who unexpectedly descended on the stage during a rendition of "Hey Jude" from 23-year-old paint sales clerk Lee Dewyze of Mount Prospect, Ill. The judges giggled at the accompaniment, which Dewyze took "100 per-

cent" credit for engineering.

"I didn't realize Jude was Scottish," Seacrest squawked.

The panel was downright adoring Tuesday, praising such previously scorned singers as 20-year-old glass blower Siobhan Magnus of Marstons Mills, Mass., and 20-year-old college student Tim Urban of Duncanville, Texas. The unpredictable Magnus won back the judges with a moody "Across the Universe," while Urban was complimented for his rendition of "All My Loving."

"There was no gimmicks," beamed Simon Cowell. "It really suited your voice."

Unless the judges decide to save a singer, which they have until the top five finalists to do, another person will be eliminated Wednesday based on viewer votes. That will leave eight contestants to be mentored on next Tuesday's episode by over-the-top eighth season runner-up Adam Lambert, according to Fox spokeswoman Alex Gillespie.

Jim Carrey, Jenny McCarthy announce split on Twitter



In this Oct. 1, 2009 file photo, Jim Carrey, left, and Jenny McCarthy arrive at the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery 2009 Visionary Ball in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jim Carrey and Jenny McCarthy have taken to Twitter to announce their breakup.

The two actors each tweeted Tuesday that they have ended their relationship after five years. Publicists for Carrey and McCarthy confirmed the split.

The 48-year-old Carrey says on

the social networking Web site that he wishes her "the very best!"

The 37-year-old McCarthy tweeted that she "will always keep Jim as a leading man in my heart."

Both say they were grateful for the time they spent together.

McCarthy also tweeted that she would remain involved in his adult daughter's life.

When it comes to adopting a pet, old is often best

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: We are seniors like "Thinking About Adopting in Las Vegas" (Feb. 2), who wants to adopt a dog. He may find it difficult to adopt one, especially since big hearts and lots of love and patience many times aren't considered "enough" today. We were denied every dog we wanted to adopt until a volunteer at Petfinder.com advised us that considering our ages, we should adopt a senior dog. We took their advice and have been blessed with 9-year-old Benji for almost a year.

Puppies are like grandchildren—full of love, but they can leave us seniors exhausted. Senior dogs nap, are more mellow than puppies and are usually housebroken. If that man outlives his dog, he'll know he gave his precious little one a good home and lots of love. If Petfinder is in his area, they will make sure your little one is adopted into the perfect home—not just "any" home.

BENJI'S PARENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR BENJI'S PARENTS: Thank you for supporting the adoption of older dogs. Readers provided some doggone good resources for adopting—or acting as a foster parent—for an abandoned or abused dog. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In most states people can now create a trust for their pet. They can put funds into it and, in this way, benefit their pet by naming a trustee and caretaker to assure it will be taken care of until it passes away. In the trust they can state all their wishes, as singer Dusty Springfield did in stating she wanted her dog fed only imported baby food, its bed lined with her nightgowns and her records played when it went to sleep.

MARC S. IN CLEVELAND

DEAR ABBY: Most Humane Societies now offer a "senior for senior" discount where a qualified senior citizen can adopt a senior companion animal, usually 7 years old or older, with all the fees waived. Please tell "Thinking" that he can find what he's looking for in companionship, and a middle-aged or older dog that would usually be passed up at the pound will get a new lease on life.

TANNA, DIAMOND BAR, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Many dog rescues need kind, loving foster homes for abused and abandoned animals who are awaiting adoption. It is hard to give up a dog after you have fostered and taken care of it for a while, and you do have the option of adopting it yourself, but believe me, this is definitely a worthwhile cause. When you take in a foster, their eyes are dull. But after receiving love and attention from a caregiver, those eyes sparkle and you know you have done something wonderful.

JILLIE IN HUMBLE, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: After practicing as a vet for 35 years, may I offer a suggestion to your readers? Wonderful older pets are put to sleep every day at shelters across the country. These pets are usually house-trained, leash-trained, calm and eager for love and attention. Puppies (and kittens), on the other hand, need constant attention, training and activity.

Visit a pet shelter, and you may find your "perfect" companion patiently waiting for your love.

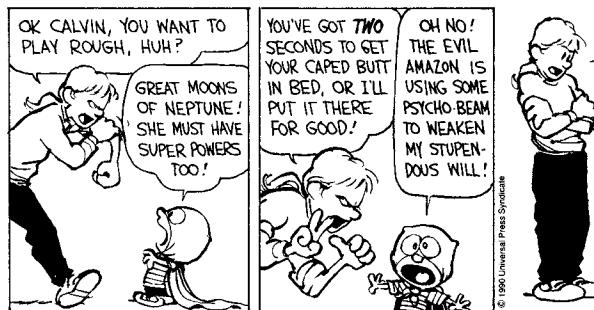
KEN COHN, TUCSON, ARIZ.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Record	33 Antitoxins	1 Love	21 Crucial
5 List- ending abbr.	34 Einstein's birthplace	23 Fear, and then much	23 Fear, and then some
8 Presage	35 "Eureka!"	24 Parlia- mentary title	24 Parlia- mentary title
12 Director	36 Rice field	25 Vacillate	25 Vacillate
13 Mai — (cocktail)	37 Retreats	26 Organiza- tion	26 Organiza- tion
14 Mysteri- ous charac- ter	40 Achilles' downfall	27 Luau	27 Luau
15 Blue hue	41 Manually	entertain- ment	entertain- ment
16 Attila, e.g.	45 Bedouin	28 Monday	28 Monday
17 Kin of 5-Across	47 Retriever	morning	morning
18 Personify	49 Met	quarter- back's	quarter- back's
20 Supple- mented, with "out"	melody	place	place
22 Olympi- ans'	50 Actor	32 "Franken- stein"	32 "Franken- stein"
prizes	LaBeouf	author	author
26 Eng's closest relative	51 Id	33 Walks the	33 Walks the
29 Shaft	counter- part	catwalk	catwalk
of light	52 Bigfoot's	35 Mimic	35 Mimic
30 AAA job	kin	36 Thick- ness	36 Thick- ness
31 Entice	53 Soak up	38 Skewered	38 Skewered
32 Gender	54 Still	entre	entre
	55 Lip	39 Monas- tery VIP	39 Monas- tery VIP
		42 Vicinity	42 Vicinity
		43 Little lice	43 Little lice
		44 Speaker's	44 Speaker's
		spot	spot
		45 Fool	45 Fool
		46 Sigma	46 Sigma
		preceder	preceder
		48 Time of	48 Time of
		your life?	your life?

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patricia Arquette, 42; Robin Wright, 44; Julian Lennon, 47; Kofi Annan, 72

Happy Birthday: If you aren't organized and precise in the way you do things, you will face complaints. Work and money should take priority, regardless of the pressures being put on you in your personal life. Uncertainty will arise regarding some of the people you deal with professionally. Protect your assets and your future. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 25, 29, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your generosity may have taxed you physically and financially but, in the end, what you have accomplished should be worth your while. The trust you build with each and every person you deal with will help you resolve issues. **★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Assess your situation and refuse to let anyone pressure you into making a decision before you are good and ready. If something isn't on your terms, chances are you will not be happy with the result. Don't compensate for someone's inexperience. **★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dig deep and you'll find the information you need to avoid making a poor decision. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Exaggeration is the enemy and doing flawless research is your guiding light. **★★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make some professional changes that will allow you to raise your income, but counting on money before it's actually in your

hand is not a good idea. An old friend may ask for a loan or donation. Offer time, not money. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your ability to act fast and counter any deals that may affect your status quo will be your saving grace. Someone from your past who has expertise and the experience you need, will be able to help you. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't believe everything you are told. Do your homework. Travel and getting involved in activities that promote love will be life-changing. Don't give in to anyone pestering you for money or possessions. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may try to get the most for the least but, in the end, it will cost you personally. Concentrate on getting to know people with something to offer that motivates you. Fix up your home—the pleasure derived will outweigh any distaste at the work you experienced. **★★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let anyone's negative attitude slow you down or stand in your way. You have to do what's best for you. Follow your heart and you will achieve your goals and meet people who want to share your success with you. **★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trying to avoid emotional problems will only make matters worse. Honesty will be a must if you don't want to face criticism. A dispute over money can ruin a relationship. Have a workable solution in mind. **★★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOPRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Set the ground rules and stick to them. Entertaining the people you enjoy most will also enhance your relationships. Your knowledge and expertise will lead to deals requiring your skills. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too quick to share your deepest thoughts or you will end up in a vulnerable position. Face facts when dealing with people who are too complimentary. Not everyone has your best interest at heart. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): By not sharing your secrets, you will avoid worrying about what others think and how they will react. Diplomacy will help you through the day and enable you to bypass any difficulty. Less can be more if you are smart, precise and stick to a budget. **★★★★**

Birthday Baby: You fight for the underdog and are not afraid of controversy. You strive to be in control and are set in your ways.

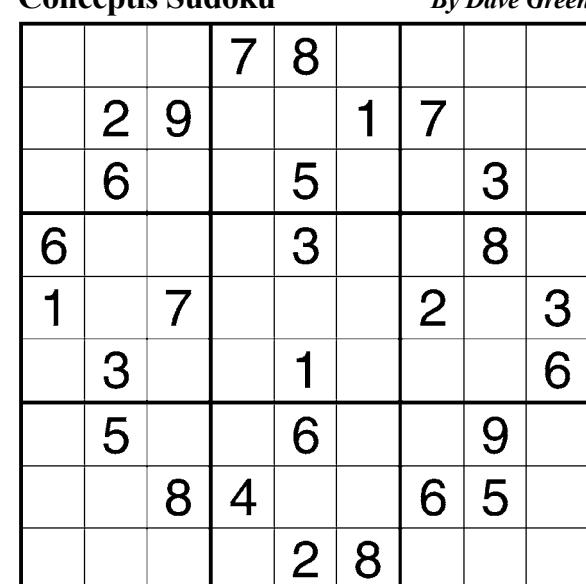
Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

SUDOKU

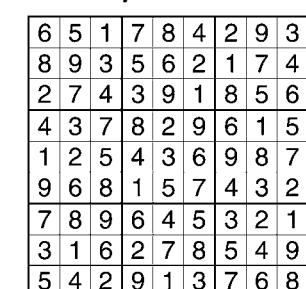
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

\$100 BILLS

Solution: 8 letters

I I T U O Y A L A I C I F F O
S N E R U T A E F L Y F L D B
T T D R H I S T O R Y A E E A
K E Y E U I N C U R T D D C N
R R L L P T K S S E I E A A K
A W A L E E A R M M R U R L S
M O M M A E N N E R U S G P F
D V E E R W Y D G S C S P E E
N E R T D E H R E I E I U R D
A N I E R A T S R N S R U A E
L L C N N E R A A C T V G R
G A A D K E P T W C C E R E A
F O Y E V L L A H I L A M I L
S A L E S D N E P S L T N I M
W O R D I N G N H I G H E S T

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Connecticut beats Stanford for NCAA title



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—There was no panic in the locker room. No pep talk, either. Maya Moore and her Connecticut Huskies knew the score.

"It couldn't get any worse," she said. And it was all slipping away—the streak, the perfect season, the championship.

Leave it to Moore. The tournament's most outstanding player took over the NCAA title game Tuesday night, rallying the Huskies from a horrible first half to a 53-47 victory over Stanford.

"We knew a run was coming," she said. "We settled down and hit some big shots."

Suddenly, a team that was stagnant on offense and trailing 20-12 at the break was moving and scoring.

"Just no fear," said Moore.

That could be a motto for coach Geno Auriemma's Huskies. UConn (39-0) is the first team ever to have consecutive unbeaten seasons, but that doesn't cover it.

The Huskies have been unstoppable over the past two years, winning 78 straight—every game until Tuesday night by double figures—and passing their own NCAA women's Division I record of 70 straight wins set from 2001-03. The championship victory put them within 10 of the vaunted 88-game streak set by John Wooden's UCLA men in the early 1970s.

Thanks to Moore. The sensational junior scored 11 of the Huskies' first 17 points in the second half. She finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds to help Auriemma win his seventh national championship, moving within one title of Pat Summitt and Tennessee.

"It's what great players do," Auriemma said. "They do it at the most pressure packed times



Connecticut players celebrate following the women's NCAA Final Four college basketball championship game against Stanford Tuesday, April 6, 2010, in San Antonio. AP

that makes them who they are."

"That's what makes them great. Maya's a great scorer and you get that reputation by scoring points under pressure. She certainly did that."

Tina Charles added nine points, 11 rebounds, and 6 blocks. The senior and Auriemma shared an embrace after the final buzzer.

The lowest-scoring game in NCAA championship game history was played in front of a crowd of 22,936 that included Vice President Joe Biden, who hugged the UConn players after the game, as well as former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. While Biden showed impartiality in his cheering, Rice was rooting on Stanford—the

school at which she served as provost for six years.

She visited with the team at a morning shootaround, offering words of encouragement. Rice had hoped to see the Cardinal win their third championship and first since 1992.

Stanford (36-2) played a nearly flawless defensive first half, holding UConn to 12 points—the lowest ever in a championship game and the lowest in school history.

"I can't even imagine them scoring only 12 points," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "It was just an incredible job."

But then Moore and the Huskies took over.

"Maya Moore was the differ-

ence," VanDerveer said. "If she's on our team, we win. She really stepped up and made big plays for them. Really, she's a great player and she made big plays."

UConn opened the second half by scoring 17 of the first 19 points to take its first lead since early in the game.

Moore's 3-pointer from the top of the key made it 23-22, giving UConn its first lead since it was 5-0. That ended a 19-minute stretch in which UConn was behind—the longest that UConn had trailed this season. The only time that the Huskies were behind longer than 10 minutes also had been against Stanford, the first time they met.

Moore followed up her 3 with a sweet jumper and a layup

on the break after Charles had blocked Nnemkadi Ogwumike on the other end.

JJ Hones' 3-pointer with 11:46 left in the game cut the deficit to 29-25, but then Charles made her presence felt, scoring seven of the Huskies next nine points to make it 38-27 with 7:42 left.

Stanford would only get as close as five the rest of the way. UConn let the Cardinal close the gap late, making just 9 of 22 free throws for the game.

This was the sixth time the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the final AP Top 25 poll met for the title. The last came in 2002 when UConn beat Oklahoma in San Antonio.

Even though Stanford was second in the poll all season and its

only loss came to Connecticut, it would have been a monumental upset had the Cardinal won.

The two teams have developed a cross-country rivalry over the past three seasons, since Stanford beat UConn in the 2008 national semifinals. The Huskies haven't lost since, defeating the Cardinal three times during that stretch.

They played back on Dec. 23, when UConn came away with a 12-point victory. Stanford led that game by two at the half, but the Huskies went on a 30-6 run in the second half to take control.

VanDerveer had talked on Monday about how important it was for her team to get out to a quick start. UConn scored the first five points, but then went over 10 minutes without one, missing 16 straight shots—including eight 3-pointers—as Stanford took a 12-5 lead.

Moore's acrobatic layup finally ended UConn's drought with 7:22 left in the half, but Jeanette Pohlen answered right back with a 3-pointer. Kayla Pedersen's 3-pointer made it 18-9—the biggest deficit UConn had faced the entire season.

In the second half, though, Stanford couldn't hold on.

Pedersen led the Cardinal with 15 points and 17 rebounds. Nnemkadi Ogwumike, who had 38 points in the national semifinals, added 11 points and 13 boards.

"Twelve points in the first half was extremely helpful for us, but we weren't able to capitalize," Pedersen said. "We kept fighting, kept fighting and things weren't falling for us. We needed to make our own run and we didn't really do that."

Jayne Appel, who came into the game with an injured ankle, was ineffective going scoreless. The senior missed all 12 of her shots.

"I'm really sad for her to go out on this kind of game," VanDerveer said. "She just was not able to push off her ankle and her foot's bothering her. I'm more sad for her than anyone else."



BOSTON
(AP)—The New York Yankees capitalized on a costly fielding error to beat the Boston Red Sox 6-4 in the American League on Tuesday.

With two outs in the eighth Boston shortstop Marco Scutaro fielded Derek Jeter's routine grounder and only had to throw to first to retire the side. But the throw went in the dirt and off first baseman Kevin Youkilis' glove, allowing Jeter to first, loading the bases.

Then Boston pitcher Hideki Okajima walked Nick Johnson to put the Yankees up 5-4 and ahead to stay.

New York's Alfredo Aceves pitched two hitless innings to take the win, while Mariano Rivera got his first save of the year and 527th of his career, most in AL history.

Twins 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Joe

Yankees seize on key Red Sox error

manoff and Kurt Suzuki each singled with one out in the 10th. After Eric Chavez flew out, Ellis singled into the right-center gap to score pinch-runner Eric Patterson.

Edwar Ramirez pitched the 10th for the A's to earn his first win since 2008, when he was with the New York Yankees. Oakland starter Dallas Braden struck out a career-high 10.

Seattle pitcher Kanekoa Texeira took the loss in his major league debut.

Rays 4, Orioles 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Carl Crawford drove in two runs with a bases-loaded double in the ninth inning to lift Tampa Bay over Baltimore.

Tampa Bay loaded the bases in the ninth against Baltimore closer Michael Gonzalez with a single, double and an inten-

tional walk. Crawford lined a 1-0 pitch into right field, driving in the winning runs before a sellout crowd.

Evan Longoria homered in the sixth for the Rays.

Adam Jones, Luke Scott and Matt Wieters homered for the Orioles, who were unable to put the game away because of a lack of timely hitting with runners in scoring position.

Rays reliever Rafael Soria-no got the win, despite struggling to get through the top of the ninth, while Gonzalez took the loss.

Brewers 7, Rockies 5

In Milwaukee, Randy Wolf's debut as a Milwaukee starting pitcher was a success, steering the Brewers to a win over the Colorado Rockies.

Wolf struck out eight in 6 2-3 innings in his first start

since signing a \$29.75 million, three-year contract in the off-season to bolster Milwaukee's starting staff.

Casey McGehee and Rickie Weeks did their part to help.

McGehee hit a three-run homer in the first and Weeks added a solo shot off Rockies starter Greg Smith in the fifth.

Trevor Hoffman gave up a run in a rocky ninth but recorded his 592nd career save.

Giants 3, Astros 0

In Houston, Barry Zito gave up only three hits in six innings to guide San Francisco past Houston.

Zito struck out five before he was replaced and the relief staff of Waldis Joaquin, Dan Runzler, Sergio Romo and closer Brian Wilson combined for one hit in the last three innings. Wilson earned his second save.

Giants newcomer Aubrey Huff had two hits and drove in a run in a game that was scoreless until the sixth.

Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez allowed seven hits in six innings. He struck out four and walked four.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, San Diego pitcher Chris Young allowed just one hit through six innings as the Padres downed Arizona.

Young, who missed the second half of last season after shoulder surgery, struck out five. The only hit he allowed was a single in the fourth.

Everth Cabrera drove in four runs with a triple in the sixth and a double in the second. That matched his career high for RBIs.

Arizona starter Edwin Jackson lasted just four innings in his Diamondbacks debut, allowing three runs, including a solo homer by Will Venable.

Bosh injured as Cavs down Raptors



C L E V E -
L A N D
(AP)—The
Toronto Raptors lost All-
Star forward Chris Bosh to
a broken bone in his
face and saw their NBA
playoff hopes dented
with a 113-101 loss to
the Cleveland Cavaliers
on Tuesday.

Bosh was accidentally struck by a stray elbow from Cleveland's Antawn Jamison in the third minute. Bosh, who had blood dripping from his nose and mouth as he was assisted from the floor, suffered a maxilla and nasal fracture to the right side of his face and was to stay in hospital overnight.

Jamison scored 20 points—12 in the third when the Cavs opened a double-digit lead—and Anthony Parker had a season-high 18 as the Cavaliers won an 11th straight home game. Cleveland wrapped up the NBA's best record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

Jarrett Jack scored 23 for the Raptors, whose defeat clinched a playoff spot for the Miami Heat.

Jazz 140, Thunder 139, OT

In Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored a career-high 42 points, including a go-ahead shot with 1.1 seconds left in overtime as Utah pulled into second place in the Western Conference with a thrilling victory over Oklahoma City.

The Jazz overcame 45 points by Kevin Durant, who thought he was fouled on a 3-point attempt just before the buzzer that would have won it for the Thunder. Durant and several teammates stayed on the court pleading for a call that never came.

It was the highest-scoring game in the NBA this season, according to STATS LLC.

Durant hit four of his seven 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Thunder rallied to force overtime.

Carlos Boozer had 28 points and 15 rebounds for Utah.

Bobcats 109, Hawks 100

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Charlotte ensured its first non-losing season in its six-year history by downing Atlanta.

Gerald Wallace scored 28 points and Boris Diaw had 17 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the Bobcats, who inched closer to their first playoff berth and can finish no worse than .500.

Atlanta's hopes of reaching 50 wins for the first time in 12 years were squashed as it fell behind by 20 points after the first quarter.

Maurice Evans scored 20 points for the Hawks.



AP
Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh leaves the game with a bloody nose in the first quarter in an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, in Cleveland.

Bucks 79, Bulls 74

In Chicago, Milwaukee secured a play-off spot by beating Chicago.

John Salmons scored 26 points against his former team for the Bucks, who were playing for the first time since center Andrew Bogut was injured.

Milwaukee wrapped up their first playoff berth since the 2005-06 season. They are tied with Miami for fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

The Bulls, who matched a season low for points, remained a game behind Toronto for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

Rockets 113, Grizzlies 103

In Memphis, Tennessee, Kevin Martin scored 29 points to lead Houston over Memphis.

Aaron Brooks added 17 points and seven assists for the Rockets, who thwarted a late Grizzlies rally.

Zach Randolph led Memphis with 22 points.

Knicks 104, Celtics 101

In New York, Danilo Gallinari scored a career-high 31 points, including the go-ahead basket with 36 seconds left, to help New York defeat Boston.

Earl Barron had 17 points and a career-best 18 rebounds for the Knicks, who temporarily avoided a third consecutive 50-loss season.

Ray Allen scored 17 points for the Celtics, who blew a chance to tie Atlanta for third place in the Eastern Conference. Boston botched its final possession and couldn't get a tying 3-point

attempt off in the final seconds.

Spurs 95, Kings 86

In Sacramento, California, surging San Antonio notched a fourth straight win by downing Sacramento.

Richard Jefferson scored 18 points and Manu Ginobili had 16 for the Spurs, who moved into a sixth-place tie with Oklahoma City in the Western Conference playoff race.

Tyreke Evans had 22 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Kings, who have lost eight straight.

Pistons 124, 76ers 103

In Philadelphia, undermanned Detroit snapped an 11-game losing streak with a victory over Philadelphia.

Charlie Villanueva scored 25 points and Rodney Stuckey added 24 for the Pistons, who won for only the eighth time on the road this season.

Marreese Speights scored 21 points for the struggling Sixers, who have lost four straight.

Wizards 112, Warriors 94

In Washington, the hosts were up by double digits within three minutes and comfortably saw off Golden State.

Warriors coach Don Nelson came up short in his first attempt at breaking Lenny Wilkens' record for NBA coaching victories, remaining on 1,332.

Nick Young scored a season-high 29 points and JaVale McGee set career highs with 25 points and 15 rebounds. The Wizards had four players reach 20 points for the first time since 2007-08.

Donovan McNabb starts 'new chapter' as Redskins QB



ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—The quarterback holding the burgundy No. 5 Washington Redskins jersey was Donovan McNabb. From everything that was said, it might have been simpler to just go ahead and call him John Elway II.

The six-time Pro Bowl star was formally introduced Tuesday at Redskins Park. All things being equal, he would rather be preparing for a 12th season with the Philadelphia Eagles, but an Easter Sunday trade between NFC East rivals has opened what he called "a new chapter in the book of Donovan."

"I've always believed in finishing where you started," McNabb said. "I think there's a lot to be said with that. Not a lot of quarterbacks in this league are able to do that these days. Sometimes change is better. Sometimes you're forced into change. I would have loved to (stay in Philadelphia), but it didn't happen."

Instead, he is with the Redskins and new coach Mike Shanahan, and both went to great lengths to say that trading two draft picks for a 33-year-old quarterback with a few nicks is a solid investment. They did so by repeatedly invoking Elway, who was 34 when Shanahan became coach of the Broncos in 1995.

"I'm turning 34 this year," McNabb said. "And he finished John's career with two Super Bowls. Hopefully I can continue to follow behind that."

It makes for quick answer to the boos McNabb has heard in Philadelphia in recent years.

"People were saying John Elway should retire," Shanahan said, "until he won the Super Bowl."

Before the pursuit of such lofty goals, there were the necessary reflections and thank-yous from McNabb to Philadelphia. Most of his words for his former team and city were upbeat and gracious—"I felt I was treated fair"—with maybe a slight dig or two thrown in.

Surprisingly, McNabb said he has spoken "not much" about the trade with Andy Reid, his coach for his entire tenure with the Eagles. He portrayed himself as fallout from a Philadelphia youth movement.

"They're rebuilding, and they're going young," McNabb said. "So I never knew 33 years old was old, but I guess I'm too old."

And, while Shanahan's offense will have its similarities to Reid's, McNabb cited what he thinks will be one substantial difference.

"It starts with the run game," McNabb said. "I know probably a lot of you come from Philly don't know much about that run game. But we will run the ball here."

And, when asked if the rug had been pulled out from under him in Philly, McNabb said: "It did."

"We had two young guys on the outside, a very effective tight end, a young running back, (Brian) Westbrook was coming off an injury, the offensive line was trying to jell, we were mixing guys in, and some guys were hurt," McNabb said. "But they moved in another direction. There's nothing I can do on that particular point."

McNabb said he expects "hopefully cheers" when he returns to the Phila-

delphia with the Redskins next season, yet he refused to portray it a special date on his mental calendar.

"I don't look at it any different than playing the Giants or Dallas," McNabb said. "Nothing like I'm going to run my head through a locker or start throwing stuff through my house. It's an opportunity for us to play another team."

McNabb was clearly relieved to have constant trade speculation behind him—"I'm just so happy that it's over"—and that he ended up with a team among those at the top of his wish list.

His agent, Fletcher Smith, said he and McNabb didn't end up having to object to an undesirable destination.

"He and Andy have a special relationship, and he did right by Donovan at the end of the day," Smith said. "There wasn't a time when we had to tell a team we weren't going to come."

The next priority is a contract extension for McNabb, whose current deal expires at the end of the upcoming season. McNabb and Shanahan both said the quarterback has a lot left in the tank—again citing Elway as an example—but the coach wouldn't rule out taking a quarterback with the No. 4 overall pick in this month's draft. Given the woeful state of the offensive line, however, it would seem the Redskins would now want to target a player to protect McNabb's blind side.

Another bit of housekeeping for McNabb was a talk with his good friend Jason Campbell, the Redskins' starter for the last 3 1/2 seasons. Shanahan said the Redskins have given Campbell permission to explore a trade up to the April 22-24 draft.

"I let him know that this wasn't one of my plans, to try to come and take his spot," McNabb said. "I told him 'The sky's the limit for you. Continue to hold your head high.'"

McNabb immediately began taking part in the team's offseason conditioning program, but said he'll also take some weeks off to deal with the logistics of moving. He's less than two weeks away from his first Redskins minicamp.

"It feels like being drafted again," McNabb said. "You been selected by a new team. You're going through all the emotions of learning new plays, being with the guys, working out, so it feels like I'm about 22 again."

He laughed and added: "The body may not respond that way."

Redskins news always upstages everything sports in the nation's capital, and McNabb's signing stole much of the thunder from the Washington Nationals opening day game Monday, when President Barack Obama threw out the first pitch. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, in town for the game, turned off his TV in disgust Monday morning when all the talk was about McNabb, and a news helicopter actually followed McNabb as he rode in a limousine from the airport to Redskins Park on Monday afternoon.

He's definitely not in Philly any more.

"That was pretty odd," McNabb said. "But I waved and I just continued to walk right in."

SSC to host ocean swim, dual meet this weekend

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 The islands' swimmers will be busy for three days with Saipan Swim Club hosting two races this weekend.

First up for SSC is a dual meet between the club's swimmers and those from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan. The dual meet will start on Friday afternoon at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and will run

until Saturday. Saturday's races will be a whole-day affair.

On Sunday, SSC will have its annual ocean swim around the World War II tanks.

The 32nd edition of the race will start in the lagoon near the old AJ's Restaurant in Susupe. Registration and check-in will begin at 7am and the race will kick off at 8am. Medals will be awarded to top finishers in various age groups.

The cost to participate is only \$15 if registration fee is paid on or before Friday. Entry fee on race day is \$25.

Last year's SSC Oceania Swim was held in March and drew around 40 participants.

Rezne Wong competed in his last SSC ocean swim before moving to Hawaii last year and won the 31st edition of the race.

Wong timed in at 33 minutes, 42 seconds in the 2.5-meter race, beating five other swimmers in his group. The University of Hawaii-Hilo student topped the boys' 15 to 19 age group, beating Cooper Graf (36:52), Larry Kasperbauer (40:33) of Tarakito Swim Club of Guam, SSC's Michael Moran (40:49) and Junior

Pamaran (42:30), and Tarakito's Ty Ralston (46:18).

Other top finishes in various age groups were Sarah Klassen, Ryosei Toda, Angel Tan, Maxi Braig, Victoria Chentsova, Kensuke Kimura, Rione Emma, Benji Schulte, Keanna Villagomez, David Palacios, Mamiko Berger, Vener Urena, Suzy Kindel, Lewie Tenorio, Kieran Daly, Monica Yamaguchi, Manya Sitchon, and Florian Braig.

Klassen submitted 18:53.57 in the girls' 8-and-under 600m race, while Toda won in the boys' division with his 12:15.31

Braig ruled the boys' 9 to 10 1,000m swim after clocking in at 16:47 and beating Kaito Yanai, Diego Shimizu, Justin Fell, Bryce Daly, and Andrew Klassen, while Tan (17:31) outraced Dannielle Atoigue (19:47) in the girls' division.

Chentsova posted 22:58.21 in the girls' 11 to 12 age group, edging over five others, while Kimura logged 18:37.76 to win in the boys' category. Riona prevailed in the girls' 13 to 14 2,500-m race, timing in at 37:14, while Schulte clocked in at 34:07 in the same age group.

Villagomez registered 57:40 to win the girls' 15 to 19 age group; Palacios won the men's 20 to 29 with a time of 19:13 in the 1300-m race; Berger logged 29:26 in the women's 30 to 39; Urena submitted 21:58.89 in the men's 40 to 49; Kindel timed in at 26:55.17 in the women's 50 to 59, and Sitchon clocked in at 30:40.43 in the same age group.

Tenorio (men's 30 to 39) had 1:00:56, Daly (men's 40 to 49) timed in at 46:46, Yamaguchi (women's 50 to 59) recorded 58:30, and Florian (men's 50 to 59) posted 57:50 in the 2,500-m race.

MORE

From Page 28

er Sir Alex Ferguson said there's no need to be alarmed.

"The (nation's) reaction was panic," Ferguson was quoted as saying in the FIFA website. "Well there is no bone damage and no serious ligament damage, so the nation can stop praying."

Other players to watch are midfielder Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard, who hit four and three goals, respectively, during the qualifiers.

In 2006, England made it to the quarterfinals before losing to Portugal, 1-3. Three Lions team offered several excuses for their failure in Germany, including the humid weather in the host country. This year, the tournament will take place in the South

African winter, a condition that should suit the English players and their style.

England is seeded first in Group C, joining the United States, Algeria, and Slovenia.

On a mission

The Netherlands will be on a mission in South Africa, aiming to reach the finals after 32 years and eventually win the coveted crown.

"We have a mission: that mission is to be champions of the world," assistant coach Frank de Boer was quoted as saying in the 2010 FIFA World Cup website.

The 1988 European champions and World Cup finalist in 1974 and 1978 made it the 2010 World Cup, following a perfect 8-0 record in qualifying tournaments and after giving up only two goals in eight games.

The Flying Dutchmen known for their precise passing skills topped Euro's Group 9, beating powerhouse Norway and Scotland.

Bert van Marwijk will be coaching the Netherlands. He is more known as a coach than a player, having given Rotterdam the UEFA Cup trophy in 2002 and having a two-year stint with Borussia Dortmund in Germany.

The Oranje's roster is intact, having most of the players who participated in the 2006 World Cup back for the tournament in South Africa. The Netherlands' lineup has Arjen Robben, Joris Mathijsen, Andre Ooijer, Dirk Kuyt, Mark van Bommel, Klaas Jan Huntelaar and Giovanni van Bronckhorst, who all played a lot of minutes in Germany.

The Netherlands, which is in Group E along with Denmark, Japan, and Cameroon,

made it to the second round in the 2006 World Cup, but lost to Portugal, 0-1.

High expectations

Portugal will have a lofty billing in South Africa, as besides being ranked No. 4 in the latest FIFA rankings, A Seleção das Quinas was a semifinalist in the 2006 World Cup and finalist to the 2004 European championship.

Add to these the enlisting of Mozambican-born Carlos Queiroz as coach. Queiroz was a former national coach of South Africa and was also known for leading Luis Figo, Rui Costa, and Fernando Couto to consecutive FIFA World Youth Championship titles in 1989 and 1991. Queiroz also served as assistant to Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United.

Queiroz and crew had a bit of rough sailing en route to South

Africa, losing four of their first five games before sweeping the last four without giving up a goal while scoring eight.

Despite its slow start in the qualifiers, Portugal joined the ranks of favored Euro teams in South Africa as it has 2008 FIFA World Player Cristiano Ronaldo on its roster. Besides the Real Madrid star, the Portuguese also have Pepe, Deco, Ricardo Carvalho, Jose Bosingwa, and Simao to lean on.

Portugal is on its fifth World Cup appearance. It first made the elite tournament in 1966 and finished third that year, Portugal's best finish so far. In 2006, it lost to Germany in the battle for third place.

Portugal, which lost to France in the semifinals in Germany, is in one of the "Groups of Death" (Group G) in South Africa, as the former is in the company of heavily favored Brazil, North Korea, and Côte d'Ivoire.

EBISUYA

From Page 28

Moises led Ebisuya's opening-day win, firing 16 and 15 points, respectively. Amor Casabuena and Alex Ocampo also scored in double figures, chipping in 10 points each.

The masters caging's unique rules, requiring teams to have all its players suit up in all four quarters of the game, allowed more Ebisuya players making it to the scoreboard. Ed Yalung contributed eight, Lito Salas and Ferdie Tobias added six apiece, Dante Olivos had five, and four other Ebisuya players drilled at least one field goal each.

Olivos scored Ebisuya's first three points, then it was Casa-

buena's turn to file up points, nailing eight straight. In the closing minutes of the first period, Ocampo logged six of the team's last eight points, lifting Ebisuya to a 27-10 lead.

Ebisuya continued to pile up points in the next three quarters against the struggling Island Apparel, which drew double figures only from two players—Frank Babauta and Derron Flores. Babauta finished with 13 points, while Flores added 10.

Ebisuya and Island Apparel/Below the Rim joined 14 other teams in the elaborated opening ceremony of the league.

Dance numbers from various groups and other performances from guests and speeches from government officials

were some of the highlights in the more than two-hour opening rites.

Masters Basketball Federation of Northern Mariana Islands, which is organizing the league, was recognized at the opening ceremony. Senator Jude Hofs Schneider of Tinian presented MBFNM a copy of a Senate resolution, endorsing and encouraging the establishment of the group.

MBFNM chair Ray Lizama accepted the resolution and was joined by Joe M. Pangilinan, vice chairman; Scott Norman, secretary/adviser; Yosh Gabaldon, treasurer; and directors Abner Venus, Bruce Berline, Yasu Irinaka, Arnold Mesa, and Dexter Mendiola at the presentation.

Meanwhile, the league will take a break this week to give participating teams time to complete their uniforms and gather all their players. The regular schedule of the league will resume next week. There will be one game every Tuesday and Thursday, four every Saturday, and two every Sunday.

Ebisuya 84 – Tabora 16, Moises 15, Casabuena 10, Ocampo 10, Yalung 8, Salas 6, Tobias 6, Olivos 5, Jacob 4, Opone 2, Santos 2.

Island Apparel 52 – Babauta 13, Flores 10, Santos 8, Camacho 6, Magcalas 6, Norman 2, Irinaka 2, David 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-10, 42-23, 66-31, 84-52.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

seventh inning.

The Fielders were hoping to go home early after leading, 8-4, going into the top of the seventh inning. However, the Falcons made a rally and extended the game for about 40 minutes before Aldan was tagged out.

Pressured to score at least four runs to force another inning, Tomas Camacho led off for the Falcons and singled. John Pangelinan was next at bat and was beaten to first, while Josh

Jones singled and drove Camacho home to move the Falcons within three, 5-8.

Jones made it 6-8 on Tony Rogolifo's single to deep centerfield and the latter also reached home plate on a passed ball to inch the Falcons closer, 7-8.

Fielders starting pitcher Tony Agulto ended the Falcons rally after striking out Nick Cruz and moved his team one out away from wrapping up the match. After the second out, Ionis Rasa relieved Agulto on the mound, as the latter had already hit his pitching limit.

Rasa then moved the Fielders one strike away from a win, but committed an error on his fifth pitch, throwing a wild one and allowing Aldan to run to first base.

With two outs and Aldan on first, Joe Aldan stepped up next to the plate for the Fielders. After two high pitches, Rasa threw another wild one prompting Anthony Aldan to run to first. Fortunately, Fielders catcher Ben Flores had presence of mind, picked up the loose ball, and threw it to Tenorio. Tenorio and Namelo then made two pinpoint passes before the former

finally caught Anthony Aldan to end the game.

The win was third in six games for the Fielders, while the loss was the Falcons' fourth.

The Fielders got off to a decent start in the first three innings, scoring six runs to seize control of the game. The Falcons began the match with a two-run top of the first on Rogolifo's two-run triple. However, the Falcons were shut out in the next two innings before scoring two more in the fourth. The Falcons were without a run anew in the fifth and sixth before making a rally and falling short.

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers 55 22 .714 –

x-Phoenix 50 27 .649 5

L.A. Clippers 27 50 .351 28

Sacramento 24 54 .308 31 1/2

Golden State 23 54 .299 32

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

z-clinched conference

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 109, Atlanta 100
Washington 112, Golden State 94
Cleveland 113, Toronto 101
Detroit 124, Philadelphia 103
New York 104, Boston 101
Milwaukee 79, Chicago 74
Houston 113, Memphis 103

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 3

N.Y. Yankees 6, Boston 4

Minnesota 5, L.A. Angels 3

Oakland 2, Seattle 1, 10 innings

San Francisco 3, Houston 0

Milwaukee 7, Colorado 5

San Diego 6, Arizona 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships



Lydia Tan, left, and Mikayla Lopez exchange hi-fives after completing their women's doubles game in the 10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships on the PIC hard court. Lopez and teammate Lee Eun Kyong won over Tan and Jodel Fernandez, 6-3, 6-4.



Ji Hoon Heo makes a backhand return to Kirk Schuler during their men's open singles finals game. Heo won, 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 6-3.



PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mimi Sakano, left, and Liza Atalig meet at center court to decide who serves first in their girls' 10-and-under singles game. Atalig won, 8-3.



Kirk Schuler chases the ball at the backline during his men's open singles finals game against Ji Hoon Heo.



Jake Lee makes a return near the net to Art Borromeo during their men's 3.0 singles finals game. Lee won, 6-1, 3-1 (retired).



Lee Eun Kyong hits a low ball during her and teammate Mikayla Lopez's game against Lydia Tan and Jodel Fernandez.



Luther Lizama plays with the ball during a warm-up before his game against Moris Villanueva in the boys' 10-and-under singles.



Emily Jones prepares to serve against Adelle Hudkins in the girls' 14-and-under singles.



Adelle Hudkins in her backhand return form during her game against Emily Jones. Jones won, 8-5.



Art Borromeo makes a shot from the backline during his men's 3.0 singles finals game against Jake Lee.



Connecticut
beats Stanford
for NCAA title

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Saipan Tribune Sports



28 THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kiwi coach to share basketball expertise

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

New Zealand coach Kevin Smith is fulfilling a promise, when he returns to Saipan on Monday to share his expertise to the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

Smith was on Saipan in September last year when New Zealand competed in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament and after observing the CNMI brand of basketball for about a week, he vowed to return to the Commonwealth to give any kind of assistance to the island.

"You have good players. You just need to develop them and have the support of the basketball association and both the public and private sectors to bring CNMI basketball to the next level," Smith told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview last year.

Smith was the assistant coach of the New Zealand team that won fourth place in the men's division of the FIBA caging last year. This year, he became part of the New Zealand National Development Program, coaching the New Zealand Development Team Tours and the U18, U19, and U21 18, 19 and 21 national age group teams. Last year, he joined these age group teams in international tournaments, including the Australian Youth Olympic Festival where New Zealand claimed the bronze medal.



The North Shore native is also a board member of Basketball New Zealand and serves as chairman of its finance sub-committee. He is a board member, too of the New Zealand Academy of Sport.

Right now, Smith is in Germany, serving as assistant coach of the Junior Tall Blacks, who are preparing for the FIBA Oceania Championship this September. The tournament in Germany will run from April 3-10 and Smith is expected to go straight to Saipan after the seven-day caging.

Once on Saipan, BANMI is hoping to capitalize not only on Smith's expertise in basketball, but also in marketing and other administrative and financial aspects of running leagues and associations.

"Mr. Smith has been involved in basketball in many ways. He played the game for 35 years at different levels and after retiring several years later, he held the presidential seat of his local basketball association which was facing financial difficulties and saw it and its semi-pro franchise through a successful future with a sound financial platform,"

BANMI said in a press statement.

"As a skilled facilitator and speaker both in basketball and business with a particular interest in strategic planning, culture change, and leadership as well as his extensive business management skills, Mr. Smith will have much to offer and share during his week-long stay in the CNMI," the statement added.

Smith will stay on Saipan until April 19 and will be working with the board of directors of BANMI. He will also spend a few sessions with players trying out slots for the CNMI Men's and Women's National Teams.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kevin Smith, seen here at the bench of New Zealand observing the Kiwis' game against Guam during last year's FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, will return to Saipan Monday to share his expertise with BANMI.

More European heavyweights in World Cup



Ronaldo
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Rooney



Robben

Editor's note: The Saipan Tribune today will feature three of the 32 teams that advanced to the 2010 FIFA World Cup set from June 11 to July 11 in South Africa.

In FIFA's Top 10 rankings as of March this year, eight are from the Union of European Football Associations.

Joining world No. 1 Spain and fifth-ranked and defending champion Italy on the elite list are No. 3 Netherlands, No. 4 Portugal, No. 6 Germany, No. 7 England, and No. 8 France. The "outsiders" in the Top 10 are No. 2 Brazil

and No. 9 Argentina of CONMEBOL. Croatia is ranked 10, but the UEFA member failed to qualify for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

Spain and Italy are among the favorites in this year's World Cup and were profiled in last week's World Cup primer. Today, it will be the turn of England, the Netherlands, and Portugal, which are also considered heavyweights in the biggest sporting event this year.

Out for redemption

After falling short in the 2006 FIFA World Cup and the 2004 and 2008 UEFA European Football Championships, England will be going for redemption in South Africa.

The Three Lions' squad qualified

for the 2010 World Cup with an impressive 9-1 record in Euro's Group 6 and a European Zone high of 34 goals. England's only loss on its road to South Africa came from Ukraine.

The 12-time World Cup participant will be coached by multi-titled Fabio Capello, winner of Serie A with AC Milan, AS Roma, and Juventus and a two-time La Liga champion at Real Madrid. The Italian Capello formed a squad filled with big-name players, such as Manchester United's Wayne Rooney.

Rooney, who scored nine goals in nine games in the World Cup qualifiers, recently injured his ankle, causing panic in the football-crazed nation. However, Manchester United manag-

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Ebisuya wins Masters opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ebisuya began its bid in the 2010 MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League with a bang, crushing Island Apparel/

Below the Rim, 84-52, on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ebisuya, winner of two championships in other masters leagues, led from start to finish, leaning on its deeper bench and much experienced crew.

Veteran cager Jun Tabora and Ernie

See EBISUYA on Page 26



Fielders slip past Falcons in Big League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The IT&E Fielders made one crucial defensive stop to thwart the Falcons, 8-7, during their game in the Big League division of the

2010 Saipan Little League Baseball on Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

First baseman Wens Namelo and second baseman Anthony Tenorio teamed up in a rundown play with the latter tagging out Falcons' shortstop Anthony Aldan for the third out at the top of the

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